

THE AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER

THE INDEPENDENT

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16 PAGE SPORT SECTION

INCLUDING TIM HENMAN'S FIGHTBACK IN THE DAVIS CUP
PLUS THE BEST OF THE WEEKEND'S ACTION

MARS ATTACK!

VENUSIAN DEBORAH ROSS
MEETS MARTIAN JOHN GRAY
SELF-HELP GURU

REVIEW FRONT

Nato threatens 'nights of fire' as forces move to defend refugees

BY MARY BRAID
AND KIM SENGUPTA

THE STAKES have been raised again in this, the most cut-throat of contests. As the Serbs yesterday continued their ferociously paced expulsion of the Kosovo Albanian population, Nato promised to unleash unrelenting bombing waves upon Yugoslavia.

The improving weather is on the side of the air campaign; the Serbian leadership and government infrastructure are now top of the Nato hit-list. President Slobodan Milosevic's palace in Belgrade may even be targeted, said the German Defence Minister, Rudolph Schaar.

Last night more bombing missions took place against Belgrade, which Nato was initially reluctant to target. The aim is to disrupt President Milosevic's war machine by destroying fuel and transport links. Also hit were the headquarters of the internal security services, MUP, which have been responsible for some of the worst atrocities in Kosovo.

Nato's war aims are also toughening. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, declared yesterday that Nato troops will set up and protect refugee sanctuaries on the Macedonia side of the Kosovo border. Nato is also sending 6,000 troops to alleviate the misery of refugees in Albania.

This is widely seen as a precursor to the deployment of ground troops inside Kosovo itself, if only to protect the columns of refugees still haemorrhaging from the Serbs' war on the population.

The significant hardening of Nato policy was signalled by the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who said that President Milosevic must withdraw all his forces from Kosovo in any future peace deal. The



Anja Niedringhaus

Refugees at a camp at Kukes, Albania, run to greet the arrival of the first helicopters carrying supplies of humanitarian aid

Rambouillet agreement only required partial withdrawal.

But despite Nato's threats and tough talking, tens of thousands of frightened refugees emerged from Kosovo yesterday, with Serb forces firing over their heads. This weekend, the Albanian Prime Minister,

Pandeli Majko, described the exodus as a "biblical deluge", and a "new Holocaust".

At last there are signs that Nato's humanitarian plan to rescue the refugees from hunger, disease and death is swinging into action. Until now, sheer pressure of numbers -

some 435,000 Albanians have fled or been forced out of Kosovo into Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro - and the international community's slow response to the crisis have simply meant the choking up of an entirely inadequate system. With the Macedonian border sealed

until guarantees of international aid are given, long columns of hungry, cold, exhausted and in some cases dying refugees have built up just inside Kosovo.

The Nato spokesman Jamie Shea said yesterday that 250,000 Albanians were waiting just inside Kosovo with no food

or shelter. The tens of thousands who have crossed the border still sit in squalor in the midst of muddy fields, while babies and old men and women die around them.

Albania is already caring for 100,000 refugees, on the condition that international assis-

tance is provided. The misery on the Macedonian border is also on the point of being tackled. Mr Cook said yesterday that Macedonia had agreed that an internationally run sanctuary for up to 100,000 refugees could be set up on its territory. A massive tented city is planned at

Bradze airfield near the Kosovo border. "It's meant to be a safe passage out of the killing fields," a senior Foreign Office source said last night. "We need to get these people away from the death squads and prevent them from dying in the mud."

Other steps are being taken to release the pressure. Britain would appear to have been on the receiving end of some US persuasion. Yesterday it offered to take "some thousands" of refugees, only hours after Tony Blair warned such an initiative constituted "a policy of despair", in that it could undermine the central aim of returning the Albanian refugees to their homes.

Ms Albright said the European Union might fly as many as 100,000 refugees out of the region with "several thousand" going to the United States. But she recognised the Prime Minister's misgivings, insisting any removal must be temporary.

"It's an ugly scene, how they're being pushed out of their country," said Ms Albright. "It's important for them not to be too far away from Kosovo so they can return."

With one of the big questions being how far America is prepared to go to force that return, she said the US was determined to press ahead with its air attack until Mr Milosevic "stopped the slaughter".

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At last, aid arrives in the valley of death

IN THIS vast, filthy arena created by madness and fear, it was a very small death, witnessed by only those who happened to be passing.

Shortly after dawn, the old woman, as tiny and light as a child, had been passed through the sea of people, mud and garbage, hand to hand like a parcel of dirty clothing. She was over 90 years old and although she was dying of hypothermia and dehydration, she had certainly been murdered. Milosevic's thugs might as well have put a gun to her head instead of rousting her from her bed in Pristina, packing her on a train and making her sleep in a sodden field for three nights.

The young Greek doctor did her best. She tried to find blood pressure and she tried to find a pulse on her neck. But the end



BY JAMES DALRYMPLE
IN BRACE

came within 30 minutes of her arrival at the pathetic little Red Cross casualty station. The doctor stood up, shook her head and walked away. Next came. About 50 people lay on the grass, some in coma, some shivering uncontrollably, some walling in shock.

The old woman was not the

first to die yesterday in the nightmare valley of the Lepenec river, beneath the village of Bracne on the Kosovar-Macedonian border. Nobody knows how many died in the night. One aid worker reported 10 infants and two adults, others put the figure lower. But in this ghastly mess, which nobody seems able to unblock, there will be many more deaths in the days and weeks ahead. One potential catastrophe is already unleashed - and another, even bigger, is descending from the hills in the north.

The position is this. On the Macedonian side of the border there are perhaps 50,000 to 60,000 people essentially trapped by Macedonian troops who are anything but friendly.

It is impossible to calculate the exact numbers, except to

say that from a high hill the densely packed crowd stretches for nearly two miles.

Yesterday, a blessed warming sun roused the massive military and aid-agency machinery from its eight-day torpor and some organised aid was finally produced. But better than that, somebody appeared to have a plan to release a human bottleneck that was only hours from becoming a disease-ridden graveyard.

A fleet of buses, perhaps a hundred in number, began to appear on the hillside and, yard by yard, the dense crowd started to move out of the morass.

Within 24 hours, thousands of troops, engineers and catering staff from the combined Nato force of 12,000 had set up half a dozen tented cities in the hills around the border; the

great unblocking operation was finally under way.

A senior British army officer, in charge of the British camp at Bojane, estimated it would take many days to clear the valley - but he said that if the weather stayed fine there was a chance of avoiding serious epidemics and loss of life.

Meanwhile, he was doing what

the paralysed lead organisation,

the United Nations High Com-

missioner for Refugees, had

been dithering over for eight

days. His men were cooking

thousands of hot meals, pro-

ducing 200,000 gallons of un-

polluted water, erecting

thousands of tents and getting

the show on the road.

But even this cheerful man

knew that a bigger horror was

just over the hill. He knew that

further up the same valley -

back where the Serbs are still prodding and pushing and driving the dispossessed - another exodus is en route from Pristina, blocking the road for 10 miles. And from a high hill it is clear that he is right. A column of the damned is stretching and twisting up through the valley moving slowly, hoping for rest and food.

But they won't get it. Macedonia is a nation in the grip of parallel nightmares - the threat of a Serbian invasion and the fear of internal instability - and it has now closed its border and demanded promises that the rest of the world will take its share of ethnic Albanians. So now, another and perhaps greater tide of misery will spill into a huge no man's land in which nobody will be

farther up the same valley -

TURN TO PAGE 3

Lockerbie suspects 'to be handed over today'

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
AND PAUL WAUGH

the Netherlands for trial by a Scottish court, eight years after arrest warrants were issued over the deaths of 270 people in December 1988, by a bomb in a radio cassette recorder.

Senior foreign officials arrived in Libya yesterday to witness the proceedings. The Arab

themselves to UN officials at Tripoli before being flown to a special compound at Zeist in the Netherlands. Foreign Office sources said the surrender deadline of tomorrow.

The men should present

League Assistant Secretary-General, Ahmed bin Hilli, and Egypt's Administrative Development Minister, Mohamed Zaki Abu Amer, have already entered Libya.

Mr Al-Megrahi and Mr Fhimah will be met by Hans Corell, assistant general secretary of the UN's office of

legal affairs, and will be arrested and formally charged by Scottish police.

As part of a complex deal negotiated by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, Libya has agreed to Scottish jurisdiction in a third country on condition UN sanctions will be suspended when the men land. Norman

McFadyen, Scotland's Procurator Fiscal, and Jim Brisbane of the Crown Office in Edinburgh, flew to Amsterdam yesterday.

The trial will be conducted under Scottish law heard by three judges and no jury. If found guilty, the pair will serve their sentences in a Scottish jail.

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Sweden 2.00-2.30
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Turkey 1.00-1.30
USA 5.00-5.30

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"Enough of this shedding of human blood. When will there be an end to the diabolical spiral of revenge?"
The Pope

"Milosevic is using the refugees as an instrument of war"
US deputy secretary of state, Strobe Talbott

"Milosevic must expect the campaign to intensify; bad weather will not save him"
Armed Forces minister Doug Henderson

"He [Milosevic] shouldn't feel he can murder at will and remain unmolested"
German defence minister Rudolph Scharping

"[We need] a corridor around Serbia... a cord around Milosevic's neck"
Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini

"Mr Milosevic will see this destruction continue as long as he maintains this stance"
French Defence Minister Alain Richard

Britain will take share of refugees

AID EFFORT

BY IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT said yesterday it would accept "some thousands" of refugees from Kosovo as neighbouring Balkan countries struggled to cope with the arrival of nearly half a million people forced to abandon their homes.

The British offer, which followed an urgent appeal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for countries to provide safe havens, was criticised by refugee aid groups for being "vague and mealy-mouthed".

Britain had been anxious not to give Serbia a signal that a policy of ethnic cleansing could succeed but relented to pressure to take its "fair share" of refugees after firm commitments were made over the weekend by other countries.

Germany agreed to take 40,000 people, the United States is accepting 20,000, Turkey 20,000, Norway 6,000, Greece 5,000 and Canada 5,000. A UNHCR spokesman said the refugees would be taken in temporarily and would later be returned to the international criminals who run the trafficking do it for us."

He said: "We are ready to take more [refugees]. We are not in a position to confirm any numbers but we are talking about some thousands."

Mr Hardwick agreed most Kosovo Albanians should be helped to return home, but he called on the Government to take in some who had relatives and friends already in Britain. His view was supported by the Labour MP Ann Clwyd, who said: "I am sure the people of Britain will respond generously to the situation that these people are in."

The Home Office has intimated it wants to avoid the mistakes made in settling previous

large influxes of refugees. Ugandan Asians who fled Idi Amin's dictatorship in 1972 were initially housed in camps, a policy that would encounter opposition from refugee aid groups if it were repeated.

In another unsuccessful ex-

ercise, Vietnamese "Boat People" were thinly spread around Britain in what has been described as a "Marmite strategy", which left them isolated from other Vietnamese and specialist support services.

By contrast, the 10,000 to

15,000 refugees arriving from the war in Bosnia over the past decade have been successfully accommodated in "cluster" communities in Derby, Dewsbury, Glasgow, Oxford, the North-east and London.

Mr Hardwick said: "Now

that we have seen pictures of what a real refugee crisis looks like, I hope we will not be seeing any more scare stories about a few dozen people turning up in a British city."

A UN spokesman in Brussels said that aircraft trans-

porting aid to the region could bring back refugees to countries willing to house them.

Britain's contribution of £20m in humanitarian aid is far higher than any from other countries except the US, which has given £31m.

Red Cross stretcher-bearers carrying an exhausted refugee through the field at Blace, Macedonia, where tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians are camped Carlo Ferraro

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THE INDEPENDENT is appealing to readers to help refugee victims of the war in Kosovo, which has triggered the biggest humanitarian disaster in Europe since the Second World War.

Up to 370,000 Albanians have fled Kosovo and neighbouring countries are being overwhelmed by the human tide of misery.

Long columns of cold, disengaged people with virtually no possessions and no means of support are still trying to cross the borders into countries where they face an uncertain future.

The money raised by The Independent will be used to buy food, shelter, warm clothes and sanitation for the displaced people. The weather is still wintry in the Balkans, and most of the refugees have only the clothes on their backs.

The British aid organisations at the forefront of the international relief operation say they need a massive injection of funds to alleviate the plight of the refugees.

Donations to The Independent appeal will be handled by the Disasters Emergency Committee, which represents 15 charities, including Oxfam, the Red Cross and Save the Children.

A telephone line has been set up by the Disasters Emergency Committee to take credit card pledges to the appeal, and donations by cheque will be handled free of charge by the banks. The appeal will be backed by a campaign of television and radio broadcasts and a series of newspaper advertisements.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Send a cheque or postal order to:

Independent Kosovo Appeal

Disasters Emergency Committee

PO Box 2710

London W1N 5AD

Cheques payable to

KOSOVO APPEAL

Call 0898 22 22 33 to make a telephoned credit card donation

Support grows for land attack

US REACTION

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

AFTER CRITICISM from all sides over the US embroilment in the Balkans, there were signs yesterday that President Bill Clinton could be starting to win the propaganda war on the home front.

As the pictures of the refugee catastrophe in the Balkans continued to dominate their television screens, Americans appeared to be softening their opposition to the use of US aircraft on the ground in Kosovo.

According to a *Newsweek* opinion poll to be published today, the proportion of Americans supporting the use of ground troops has risen from 47 per cent a week ago to 53 per cent.

The shift emerged as the US announced that it would accept as many as 20,000 Kosovars as refugees, and the national security adviser, Sandy Berger, confirmed the US was deploying Apache helicopters for use in Kosovo - a necessary prelude to the deployment of ground troops.

The capture of three American servicemen on the Macedonian border last week has not had a dramatic effect on US opinion. Concern about the fate of the soldiers has been muted

both by the drama of the refugee pictures and also by what appears to be a deliberate silence, verging on an information black-out, from the US authorities and NATO about the prisoners and the prospect of a trial.

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footage from the Kosovo borders.

messages from Washington to the Yugoslav authorities. Several senior officials - including the US special envoy, Richard Holbrooke, and a Yugoslav cabinet minister, Milan Botic, hinted that the threat of a trial had now been averted.

"Of course, they will not be tried and they will be back in their homes as soon as this stupidly stops," Mr Botic told the US television network ABC yesterday.

The Yugoslav ambassador to the United Nations, Vladislav Jovanovic, however, was less certain, saying that an investigation was still in progress.

As Mr Clinton was believed to be weighing whether the American public would accept an escalation of the conflict to include ground troops, politicians and military specialists continued to bombard the White House with condemnation and advice about strategy. "Now that we're in, we have to win,"

was the essence of a large section of opinion on the right, led by Senator John McCain, a former prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Isolationist sentiment on the right, which has opposed US military involvement in the Kosovo crisis, and which has been led by a would-be presidential candidate, Pat Buchanan, was given markedly less attention in the American media this weekend than last.

But it was hard to know whether this was because the non-embargo view has lost

ground or because it had been

crowded out by the graphic

footage from the Kosovo borders.

FORECAST

General situation: South-east Scotland, north-east England, the Midlands, East Anglia and south-east England will be mostly dry and quite warm with enough bright sun. The rest of the UK will be mostly dry and bright with some rain in western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and isolated showers this morning but it will become more overcast in the second half of the day with drizzle rain returning. Northern Ireland early this afternoon and remaining areas before evening. Some rain in south-east Scotland will start wet but it will soon become drier and brighter later.

Channel to London, SE & Cen 5 England, E Anglia, Midlands, E England, Cen 14 & NE England: Mostly dry and bright with some rain in the south-west. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).

Wales & N/W: Dry. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: A few sunny spells at first, but becoming overcast this afternoon with a growing risk of drizzle, especially over the west coast. A moderate south-west wind. Max temp 12-15C (54-59F).

The Home Office has intimated it wants to avoid the mistakes made in settling previous

large influxes of refugees. Ugandan Asians who fled Idi Amin's dictatorship in 1972 were initially housed in camps, a policy that would encounter opposition from refugee aid groups if it were repeated.

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15,000 refugees arriving from the war in Bosnia over the past decade have been successfully accommodated in "cluster" communities in Derby, Dewsbury, Glasgow, Oxford, the North-east and London.

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'You have 15 minutes to get out...'

ESCAPE FROM PRISTINA

BY GJERQINA TUHINA in Skopje

The writer has been reporting for 'The Independent' anonymously from Pristina since the crisis began. She has not been identified before for fear of reprisals

FOR 10 days, I did not think it would happen. Even after the trains began. The line to Skopje hadn't run for ages, but after the neighbourhood of Dragodan was cleared, all of a sudden they started, and everyone was somehow instructed to head to the station.

We could see them from our window. There was shooting in other parts of town. But here, people were going on foot to the station - in silence, heads down, just walking. Thousands of them, for hours and hours, escorted by the police.

When we arrived, my host and a friend were having a heated discussion. Our host was clear: "When they kick me out, I'm leaving." His friend did not want to give up his life and become a refugee. He said: "As long as I am not forced, I will not go to the train station." They talked for a long time, while we just stayed in the dark, without candles or anything to draw unwanted attention.

A day passed. It was a horrible feeling, just counting the time. We were disappointed because there weren't any Nato air strikes near the town. We discussed ideas for leaving, but nothing seemed safe enough. And I wouldn't take that train: three days in the field, losing all my documentation - never.

Only the day before, I had heard that the authorities had burnt all the civil documents, on births, marriages, deaths, etc., and the message was clear: We were to become non-persons. In those final days, I just gave up emotionally. It wasn't that I was afraid, it was lunchtime.

They had come from Dragodan and we got to know each other spontaneously, like family.

My mother and the girls were preparing the table, meat and rice, which we still had. Then we heard a commotion on the floor below, and we knew. I wouldn't see my friends anymore, sure that nothing would ever be the same.

At one point, I just had to go out. My brother came with me. We put hats on, kept our heads down and went quickly. By then the town, which once had 300,000 people, was half empty. You could feel the emptiness, like you are the only person in

that room breathing. Pristina was strange: I'd lived in Pristina for 22 years but felt like I no longer knew the town.

The route, not two hours long, was quiet. I had reported all the fighting, and many of the villages along the way had already been burnt. There wasn't that much more destruction than I already seen.

There were a few checkpoints, and some vehicles being stopped by armed civilians, but the roads were basically empty and we sailed through. The officers chatted with each other, complaining about the shortage of cigarettes in Pristina and the long day ahead of them. They said I was in no mood to speak.

The border was announced by the line of refugees 10-kilometre long. People in cars, tractors, wagons, and several thousand on foot lined up to get out of Yugoslavia. There were old people and babies, and it was very cold.

As we drove towards the border at Tetovo, I got a proper view of the city for the first time in 10 days. There were too many tanks, too many police. Everywhere. There were armoured vehicles in front of all the government buildings. Except for the shops, the centre itself was not too damaged. Even the traffic lights were working, though no one stopped at them. But as we passed through other neighbourhoods, especially residential areas, it was all burnt. It was strange: I'd lived in Pristina for 22 years but felt like I no longer knew the town.

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'The skyline was rimmed with black smoke'

IT SOUNDED as if someone in the sky were tearing apart a silk curtain. The rumble of bombs, changing the air pressure in my bedroom, sent my own net curtains billowing and banged the window against my head when I tried to push it open.

The raid must have lasted three or four minutes. The jets passed right over the crumpling, flaking tenements outside my room. And there, silhouetted over the rooftops, against the pre-dawn sky, was a great

orange glow flickering upwards and then resolving itself into a false, northern sunrise. When I looked at my watch this Easter Day morning in Belgrade, it read 4.30.

With the first paleness of the real dawn, I could make out a colossal, towering funnel of smoke – maybe a mile high – above Novy Beograd, the ugly suburb north of the Sava river, with its dingy skyscrapers and broad, weedy boulevards. By

the time I drove across the

Gazela Bridge, the whole skyline of Belgrade was rimmed with black smoke. The two red-and-white banded chimneys of the electrical power station still stood, but the plant was burning.

Across Belgrade, you could smell the fires, even inside the magnificent domed cathedral below Kalemegdan Park, where the Orthodox were celebrating Palm Sunday.

On Saturday morning, it had

been the much-unloved Yu-

AIR STRIKES

BY ROBERT FISK in Belgrade

goslav and Serbian interior ministries that were ablaze. Tongues of flame swept up from the eight-storey buildings on Kneza Milosa after eight cruise missiles – seven launched by the Americans, one by the Royal Navy – had been fired at them from the Adriatic 300 miles to the west.

The interior minister com-

pared the attack to Hitler's bombing of Belgrade on 6 April, 1941. Indeed, anniversaries seem to dominate the life of Belgrade just now. Hitler bombed 58 years ago. Nato was founded 50 years ago. Last week marked the 10th anniversary of the Serbian constitution that annulled Kosovo's autonomy.

And that wasn't all of Nato's

handiwork over the weekend. Twice it struck the river bridges over the Danube at Novy Sad, cutting off much of the water supply to the city and all of Yugoslavia's telephone lines to Western Europe, as well as navigation between Hungary and the Black Sea.

Three men were wounded in the Novy Sad bombings and five workers hurt at the power station yesterday morning.

A major military route that

carried "vital logistic supplies

and troops" for the Serbs was

how Nato justified the destruction of the first Novy Sad bridge – a description that might just as well be used about any road in Serbia. There was no doubt about the paramilitary target south of Belgrade – a police academy – although the oil refinery bombed yesterday morning at Kraljevo and the Belgrade power station hardly fell into that category.

The people of Belgrade have

long feared that Nato would spread its targeted Iraq-style – from barracks and anti-aircraft defences to bridges, roads and railways – once its air offensive failed to break Serbia.

Now it seems their fears are being realised. They had hoped that the Pope's proposal to honour another anniversary, almost 2,000 years ago, by calling an 11-day ceasefire might have brought a suspension of the bombardment. The Easter appeal was rejected.

Full air power to hit Serb targets

MILITARY STRATEGY

BY KIM SENGUPTA

ON NATO'S 50th birthday, with its strategy in Kosovo floundering, senior ranks are fervently hoping the imminent improvement in the weather will at last allow the launch of the full extent of its ferocious air power on Serbia.

Commanders, frustrated and angered by a stymied bombing campaign and the seeming inability to dent significantly the Serbian war machine or stop the waves of ethnic cleansing, say the real war is just beginning. Slobodan Milosevic and his regime will now experience "nights of fire".

The Allies are poised to launch wave after wave of bombers and missiles with a heavy concentration on Belgrade, the capital, which they had sought to avoid in the first week of the war.

High priority will be given to the Serbian leadership and the infrastructure supporting it. President Milosevic's own palace in Belgrade could be come a target.

The German defence minister, Rudolph Schapring, warned: "He shouldn't have the feeling that he can murder people at will in Kosovo and remain un molested himself."

The bombers have hit the Internal Security Institute and the headquarters of the 1st Army, whose senior echelons are said to be Milosevic loyalists. Petroleum depots and air defence systems, an attack on a bridge, say the Yugoslav authorities, caused civilian casualties.

Yesterday the first signs of what many analysts see as the inevitable next stage – the use of ground troops, were beginning to emerge.

Getting Slobodan Milosevic to disgorge Kosovo would be a long campaign of attrition needing troop strengths of between 100,000 and 200,000, attack helicopters and heavy armour not at present at the scene.

Such an expedition takes at least six to eight weeks to prepare and would have to be preceded with intense daily air strikes. As Nato military officers repeatedly point out at briefings, in the Gulf the land war was preceded by weeks of fe-

rocious bombings and missile attacks to soften the enemy.

But the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has said Nato troops will establish sanctuaries in Macedonia on the Kosovo border for refugees. Camps were being constructed and 20,000 will be committed to the project.

The Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana, has said action by ground troops may become necessary and commanders accept that a corridor may have to be established through Kosovo and a safe haven set up on that side of the border as well for the policy to succeed.

The Nato arsenal is building. The Pentagon announced Apache ground attack helicopters were being sent in. They join 13 additional F-117A "Stealth" fighter bombers and the aircraft carrier *Theodore Roosevelt*, with 50 attack jets.

The safe haven option would be a compromise between depending on air power alone, a policy increasingly seen as discredited, and full-scale intervention, which could cost huge casualties.

But even this limited operation is full of pitfalls. There would be inevitable hostilities, with the hilly, rugged terrain favouring hit-and-run tactics by the Serbs, and with the sight of body bags going home.

Macedonia's minority Serb government last week announced it would not permit a helicopter attack force in its territory targeting their kith and kin across the border.

If these problems are rec-

ondled, the campaign, according to military analysis, will still take up to three weeks of high-intensity action. The best route into Kosovo would be from Croatia in Macedonia through mountain passes into rolling hills and valleys where Nato armour will have a signal advantage over the Serbs.

But there are five key

bridges and if they are destroyed, Nato tanks will face massive difficulties. There are the additional problems of mines laid by retreating Serbs.

The first phase would be heavy tactical air bombardment to take out Serb artillery and anti-aircraft defences. This

would secure flight lanes and ground routes. The strikes could come from carriers or Nato bases in Italy and Germany.

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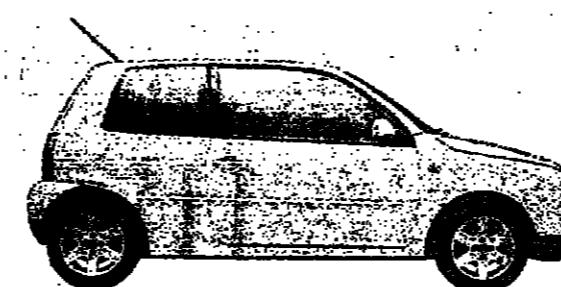
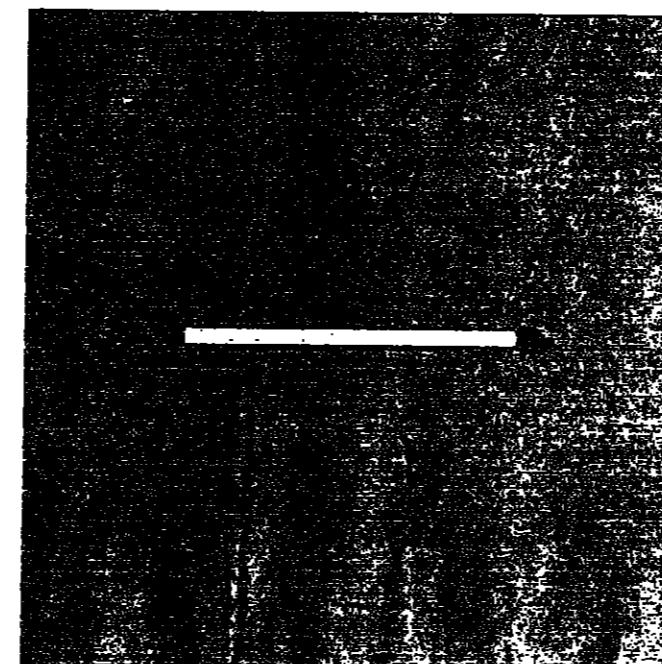
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g feared that he would
end up targets from both
militants in a bid to
force to bring his
ways - once he was
led to treat Serbia
Now it seems, that Serbs
are realising that he
is the Pope's proxy
for another 2000 years.
At 11,000 years ago, by using
11-day calendar months
brought a suggestion of
retribution. The Pope
was reported

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النهار

TIMETABLE
Saturday 3 April
1pm BST: The BBC's
treatise on the
structures of the
controversy, including
interviews with
5.30pm: BBC's *Newsnight*
interviews with
should be
in Moscow.
5.30pm: The *Newsnight*
addresses the
any more
they can
Europeans.
6pm: *Newsnight*
second programme
Dunfermline
with *Newsnight*
6pm: *Newsnight*
could go on
return to
Munich, and
part of the
6.51pm: *Newsnight*
each Friday
2pm: *Newsnight*
2.30pm: *Newsnight*
century
2.45pm: *Newsnight*
3pm: *Newsnight*
3.15pm: *Newsnight*
Sunday 4 April
6.30am: *Newsnight*
7.30am: *Newsnight*
8.30am: *Newsnight*
8.50am: *Newsnight*
9.50am: *Newsnight*
11.30am: *Newsnight*
12.30pm: *Newsnight*
1pm: *Newsnight*
1.30pm: *Newsnight*
2pm: *Newsnight*
2.30pm: *Newsnight*
3pm: *Newsnight*
3.45pm: *Newsnight*
4pm: *Newsnight*



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Mafias move into smuggling scams

THE ITALIAN and Russian mafias and at least one notorious London crime family are conspiring to smuggle tobacco and alcohol into Britain, police intelligence officers say.

The criminals are bringing in cut-price cigarettes, spirits, hand-rolling tobacco and beer from Europe worth millions of pounds and selling them on the black market. Others are operating bogus export companies to smuggle alcohol and tobacco.

Two men were arrested on Saturday after police discovered an "Aladdin's cave" of duty-free alcohol and tobacco as well as pornography at a house in Stoke. The haul included 156,000 cigarettes, 44.5 kilograms of tobacco, 14,600 cigarrillos, and 342 litres of spirits.

Ministers concerned about the Exchequer's estimated lost revenue of £1.7bn last year are appointing Britain's first anti-smuggling "czar" to review strategy.

In another recent case police say there are links to organised crime in the seizure of a lorry from Italy with four million cigarettes. Further details of the smuggling operation believed to have cost the gangs £200,000 to set up, and Italian organised criminals, cannot be released because the case is on-going.

Police and customs operations say former Soviet crime groups are involved. Contraband has been found in secret compartments in specially designed shipments of wood, paper and off-licences.

Criminals in Kent, where

BY JASON BENNETTO

Crime Correspondent

ticularly from Latvia. Detective Inspector Allan Atherfold, head of the police intelligence unit, based at Dover, said: "At the extreme end of the smuggling are organised crime groups from the new Eastern European bloc states and the Italian Mafia. Criminals from various geographical locations have got together to smuggle alcohol and tobacco."

"We have good intelligence and details of where the goods originated to show the involvement of Italian organised crime. The same is true of the Eastern bloc - Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus."

Other sources say the Adams crime gang, based in north London, are helping to set up bogus import and export companies to smuggle alcohol, almost exclusively spirits.

The family, known for extreme violence, run clubs and pubs and are involved in drug dealing and counterfeiting.

The smuggling scam works by buying vast amounts of tax-free alcohol from European or British companies and storing them in warehouses in the UK. Export notices and stamps are forged to claim the drink is exported abroad, adding duty. But the shipments never leave the country and the spirits are distributed through clubs, pubs and off-licences.

Customs and Excise believes £1.5bn is lost through excise duty and VAT on tobacco and £200m from alcohol.



The 'Aladdin's cave' of smuggled cigarettes, tobacco, alcohol and pornography uncovered in Stoke by police after a tip-off



A high-speed way to make illicit riches

BY JASON BENNETTO

THE FERRY from Calais has just arrived at Dover hoverport. It is 5.30pm. Outside in the car park are huddles of tough-looking men, sporting tracksuits and beer guts.

Minutes after the hovercraft has docked 20 to 30 people pour out of the front doors clutching carrier bags filled with bottles of spirits and packs of 200 cigarettes. They are a strange mix of the young, old, middle-aged, men and women.

They immediately approach the waiting men, who openly pull out large bundles of cash and peel off a couple of notes in exchange for the bags.

Above them are the bosses who look after distribution. Kent police say there are more than 1,000 active bootleggers from the North East, particularly Sunderland, Middlesbrough and Newcastle. A similar number are from the North West and West Midlands, with more in London area and 3,000 in Kent. The big-league criminals concentrate on bringing in vast loads - four to seven million cigarettes - in the back of lorries. These can be bought in bulk loads for as little as £1 for 100 through bogus export companies in Eastern Europe.

The other scam to attract organised crime is the "diversion fraud", where fake companies are set up in the UK. Asian criminals have become particularly adept at this, say police and customs.

In a recent case four men were successfully prosecuted for using fake export documents to save an estimated £7.2m in duty from alcohol. The men, from London, were sentenced to terms ranging from two and a half years to four years at Kingston Crown Court last month.

One of the smugglers even had his own chain of off-licences where he sold the duty-free drink.

IN BRIEF

Two dead in Scottish mountains

A CLIMBER was killed and another victim was found in the Scottish mountains over the weekend. Malcolm Hardcastle, 40, from Wirral, was found after a fall on Ben Nevis. The other body, found in Aberdeenshire, is thought to be that of Gordon Fortune, missing since January.

Land Rovers to join lorry protest

FARMERS will join protesting lorry drivers in London to demonstrate against agricultural policies and increases in fuel prices and road taxes. About 1,500 farmers say they will drive their Land Rovers in a 2,000-lorry convoy through the capital next Monday.

Pensioner beaten by burglars

A 67-YEAR-OLD man was tied up and beaten in his home by two burglars who stole his wallet. Benjamin Cauldwell, from Heanor, Derbyshire, suffered cuts and bruises in the attack on Saturday night. Police are seeking information about a silver Austin Montego seen in the area.

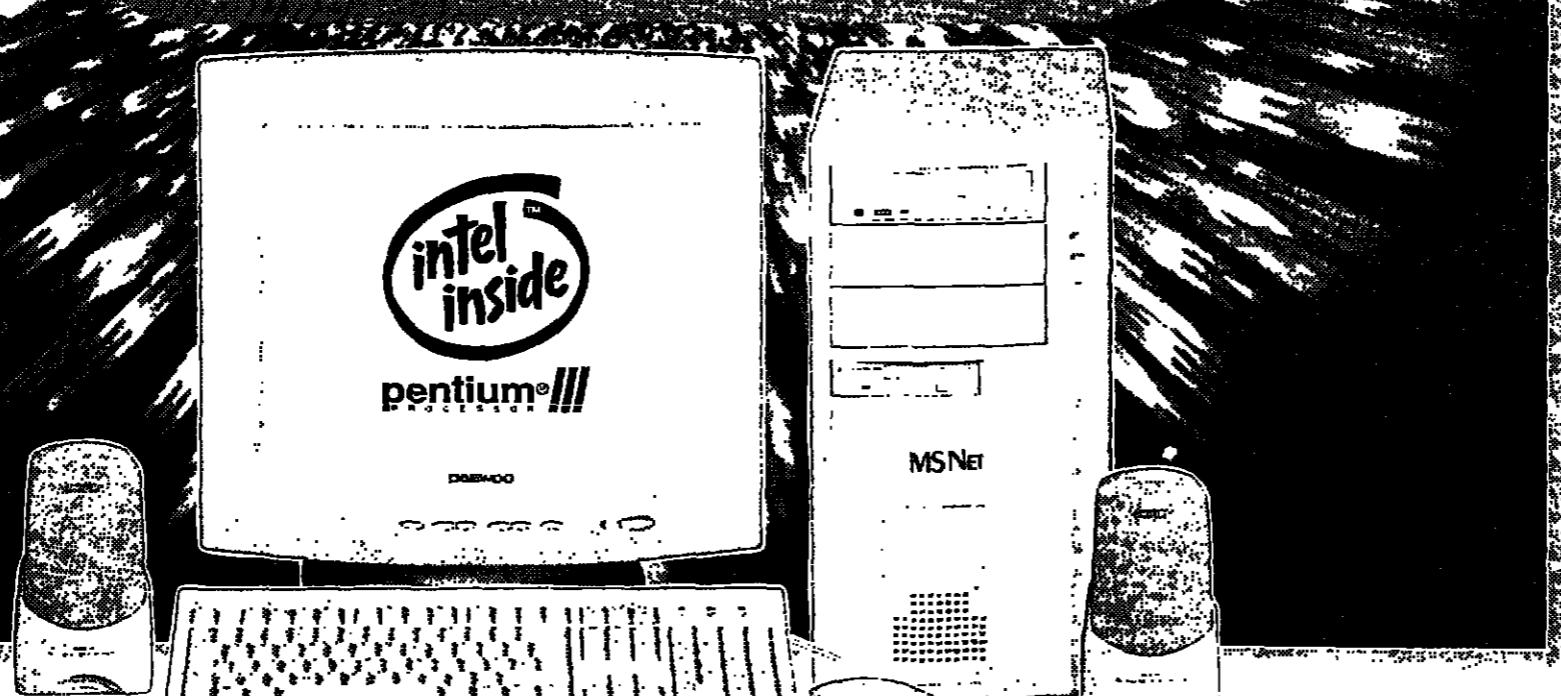
Lottery winner scoops £6.7m

ONE LUCKY ticket-holder scooped Saturday's £6.7 million National Lottery jackpot, Camelot said. The winner collected £6,775,713 for matching all six numbers - 9, 7, 43, 3, 40 and 15. The bonus number was 11.

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Corals hit by fossil fuels

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

THE WORLD'S coral reefs, already damaged by record sea temperatures, are threatened by rising carbon dioxide levels, an international team of scientists has determined.

By calculating calcium carbonate levels back to the Industrial Revolution, their study has shown that the burning of fossil fuels is raising levels of carbon dioxide, causing a reaction that erodes the reefs.

Calcium carbonate is the foundation of coral reefs, produced by tiny reef-dwelling creatures called coral polyps. Now, even rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are causing the sea to become more acidic as the gas is absorbed by the water.

This tends to dissolve calcium carbonate, making reef formation more difficult. In the next century, levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are expected to reach double the level that they were before the Industrial Revolution, when human beings first began to burn fossil fuels on a big scale. The result may be that live reefs become increasingly fragile, and may stop growing.

Coral reefs support what is thought to be the world's richest ecosystem, as well as a \$30 billion fishing and tourism industry. Global warming has already killed most of the corals in the Indian Ocean, and in areas of the western and eastern Pacific.

We calculate that the precipitation of calcium carbonate has already decreased 6 to 11 per cent since the Industrial Revolution, and would decrease another 3 to 17 per cent if carbon dioxide levels double their pre-industrial values," said Lincoln Malmstrom of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, who led the research team.

The abolition of the Southern Ocean whaling sanctuary

Great whale Japan move

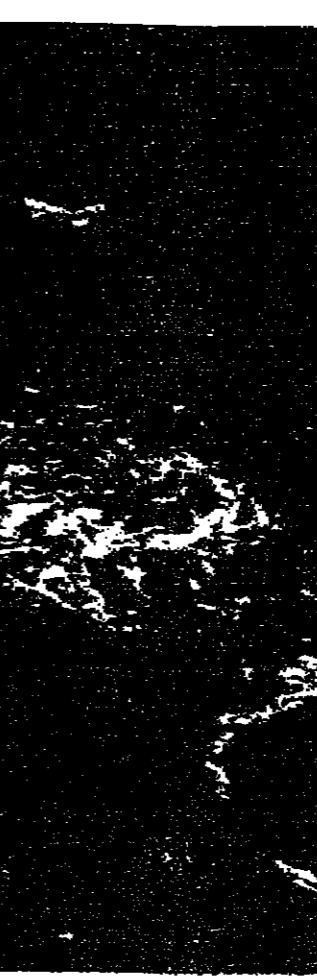
BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

Timing to hunt whales is a matter for what one, and not the other, purposes, as they have done since the current moratorium on commercial whaling came into force in 1986.

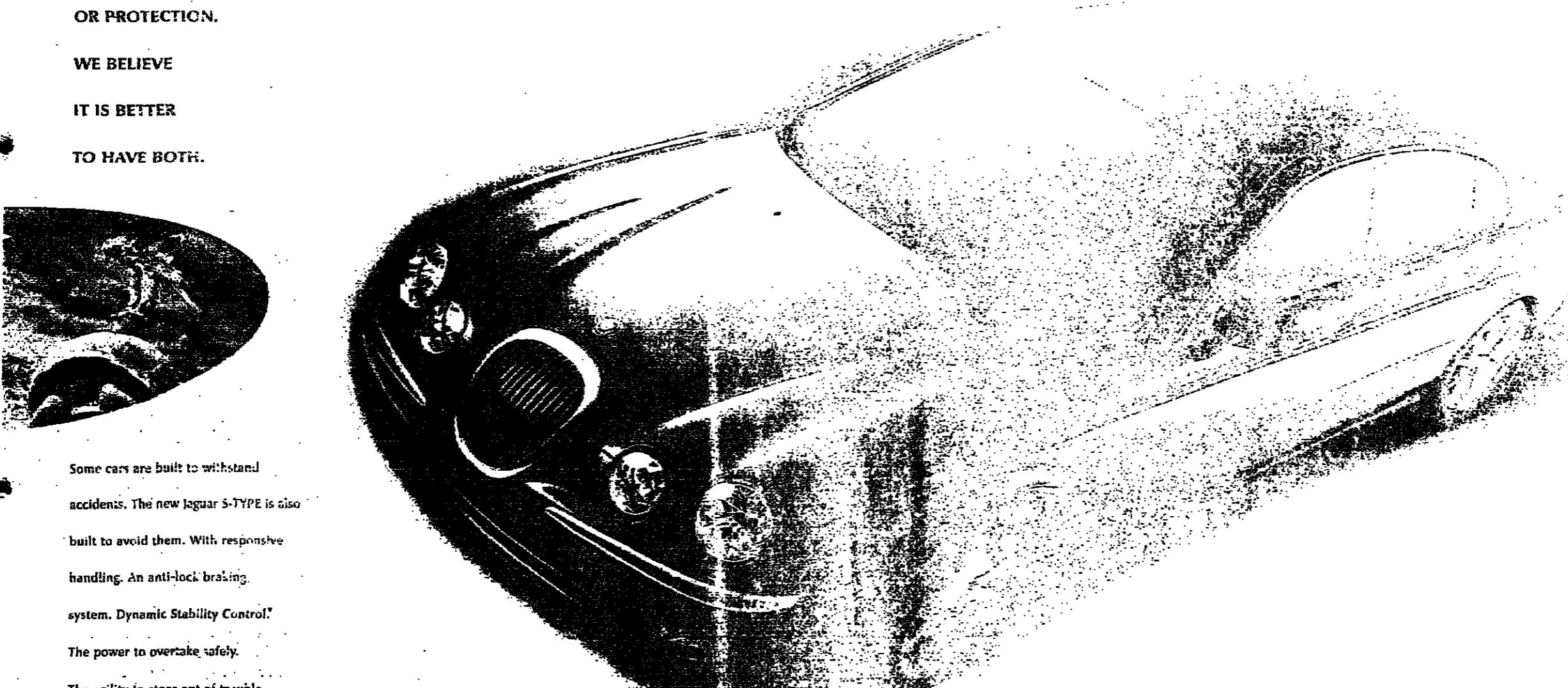
Their attempts to overturn the sanctuary is part of the Japanese whaling lobby's strategy. Japan and the whaling capital, Tokyo, are applying to have their whaling rights restored. The move has been welcomed by anti-whaling organisations worldwide, but the Japanese look as if it might succeed.

To abolish the sanctuary, Japan will need to secure a majority of votes from countries voting at the International Whaling Commission meeting in Grenada in the West Indies, the Japanese will formally propose scrapping the sanctuary, eight million square miles of ocean around Antarctica that is home to some 90 per cent of the world's remaining biggest whales. Britain will "vehemently" oppose the move, the Fisheries minister, Elliot Horley, said yesterday.

The Japanese have disregarded the sanctuary since it was established in 1994, con-



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Adams tries to resolve the arms impasse

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SINN FEIN and the IRA kept their negotiating options open yesterday in messages delivered from Easter Rising commemoration platforms, signalling to the government and others that much hard bargaining still lies ahead.

Observers had been watching for a definitive republican response to the draft declaration that emerged from last week's talks on arms decommissioning. Instead Sinn Fein speakers at ceremonies in both parts of Ireland reiterated their generalised assertion that the IRA was under no obligation to disarm. They then tended to steer away from specific responses to the declaration.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, said in Dublin: "I want to pay tribute to the IRA. I command today's IRA volunteers. 1916 was an IRA uprising. One of the provocations has been the demand on the IRA to disarm. This is something which the IRA has made clear it feels under no obligation to do."

He said he had assured the Ulster Unionist leader, David

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

Trimble, he would do his best to find a way through the arms impasse. But he added: "That is a shared responsibility and none of us have the right to remove the democratic mandate of any section of our people or to step outside of commitments endorsed in the referendum on the Good Friday Agreement."

Although the draft declaration that emerged from last week's adjourned talks at Hillsborough Castle was not formally endorsed by any party, it sent a clear signal to the republicans. This is that the British and Irish governments, and just about everyone else involved in the peace process, regards IRA decommissioning as a political necessity. The accompanying signal was that if some arms are, in the words of the declaration, "put beyond use" then Sinn Fein will be accepted in government.

The political world is now divided into two camps. One set believes that the traditional republican refusal to decommission



Gerry Adams left the arms issue open during yesterday's speech in Dublin

Ferran Paredes/Reuters

Leeson
to be
freed
in July

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

NICK LEESON, 32, the trader who brought down Barings bank, is to be released from jail in Singapore on 3 July for good behaviour, having served just over half of his six-and-a-half-year sentence.

Leeson, a former securities trader who crippled the merchant bank with debts of £860m, previously failed in his application for early release on medical grounds after suffering cancer of the colon. He underwent an apparently successful operation last August and has received extensive chemotherapy treatment.

There is no precedent for white-collar criminals being freed early on compassionate grounds and successful applications for clemency to Singapore's president, Ong Teng Cheong, are rare. Since 1965, only one inmate has been released early because of ill health. Leeson has simply benefited in the same way any "well behaved" prisoner would, the authorities said.

It is too soon to say whether Leeson will make a full recovery from cancer, but he is said to have responded well to treatment.

When he leaves jail he will find it near-impossible to gain employment in the finance industry, in which he was once a star in the futures market.

The only income he can look forward to is royalties from his book, *Rogue Trader*, and payments for selling the film rights. A film of the same name, starring Ewan McGregor based on Leeson's rise from a working-class background in Watford, is currently in production.

Leeson's wife, Lisa, has divorced him and recently married Keith Horlock, who is also in merchant banking.

Meanwhile Leeson's father, William, is also fighting cancer and is too ill to visit his son.

Defiant teachers demand £3,000 a year pay rises

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

TEACHERS WERE poised yesterday to threaten strike action unless they receive pay rises of more than £3,000 a year each.

A motion before the National Union of Teachers' annual conference in Brighton rejected government proposals for performance-related pay and backed strikes in support of an increase of 10 per cent, plus £1,000 for all teachers. Dele-

gates said all teachers were good teachers and better pay should be given for experience or extra responsibility.

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education,

partly on pupils' results. But Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said Mr Blunkett would have to release the money eventually, even if teachers refused to accept the new arrangements. Otherwise the Government would face a massive recruitment crisis.

Ian Murch, from Bradford,

who seconded the motion for an across-the-board increase, said

many new teachers were living in poverty. Fran Postlethwaite from Barnsley said the £1bn would give every teacher a £2,000 rise immediately. Classroom teachers earn up to £23,000. The motion will be voted on tomorrow. The union has already authorised a ballot for a one-day strike in the summer term. Mr McAvoy said some members would be happy

if that coincided with national tests for 11-year-olds.

Earlier, the conference passed an emergency motion condemning the Government's proposal and calling for strikes and industrial action if ministers refused to back down.

John Yandell, from Hackney in east London, said: "It is arrogant and daft on Blunkett's part to lecture us on

what is going to be good for raising standards in education. We are all super teachers. Why doesn't he pay us as super teachers?"

Jane Nellist, from Coventry, said the proposals would increase stress among children as teachers tried to boost test results at all costs. "We are already seeing play being squeezed out. It will disappear

altogether. Teachers will be forced to teach about commas instead of letting children go and play in the sand tray."

Mr Blunkett told the conference on Saturday they would be "daft" to strike over plans that would give classroom teachers who pass a tough assessment a chance to earn up to £25,000 a year.

Review, page 3



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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Just after Christmas a man knocked on our door. He had my mother's purse, with her three rings inside'

STEVE BOGGAN MEETS THE DAUGHTER OF ONE OF THE IRISH DISAPPEARED

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN WINER, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID VARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITMAN SMITH

HEALTH
HOW MY CHILD
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MEDIA

Bishop sells insurance to congregation

BY ANDREW MULLINS



Michael Reid: His church is under investigation

AN UNCONVENTIONAL Christian sect is under investigation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) after it emerged that a company run by its bishop provides financial services for much of its congregation.

The Peniel Pentecostal Church in Brentwood, Essex, has also provoked controversy by "taking over" its local Conservative party.

Most of worshippers of the Peniel Church use McArtney and Dowle, a £1.5m insurance-broking empire, to buy their mortgage, pension, life assurance, savings and health insurance. The FSA has visited McArtney and Dowle's offices and is investigating suggestions that members of the Peniel congregation may have been subjected to coercive selling.

The company is owned by Bishop Michael Reid, and his partner, Dr Peter Linneacar, 46, the senior pastor, who, with his wife, Carolyn, 46, head an intricately linked network of church, business and charitable organisations.

Dr Linneacar and his wife are trustees of the Peniel Church, a

Bishop to Peniel Pentecostal Church and a Rover - B3 PPC. Dr Linneacar drives a Lexus.

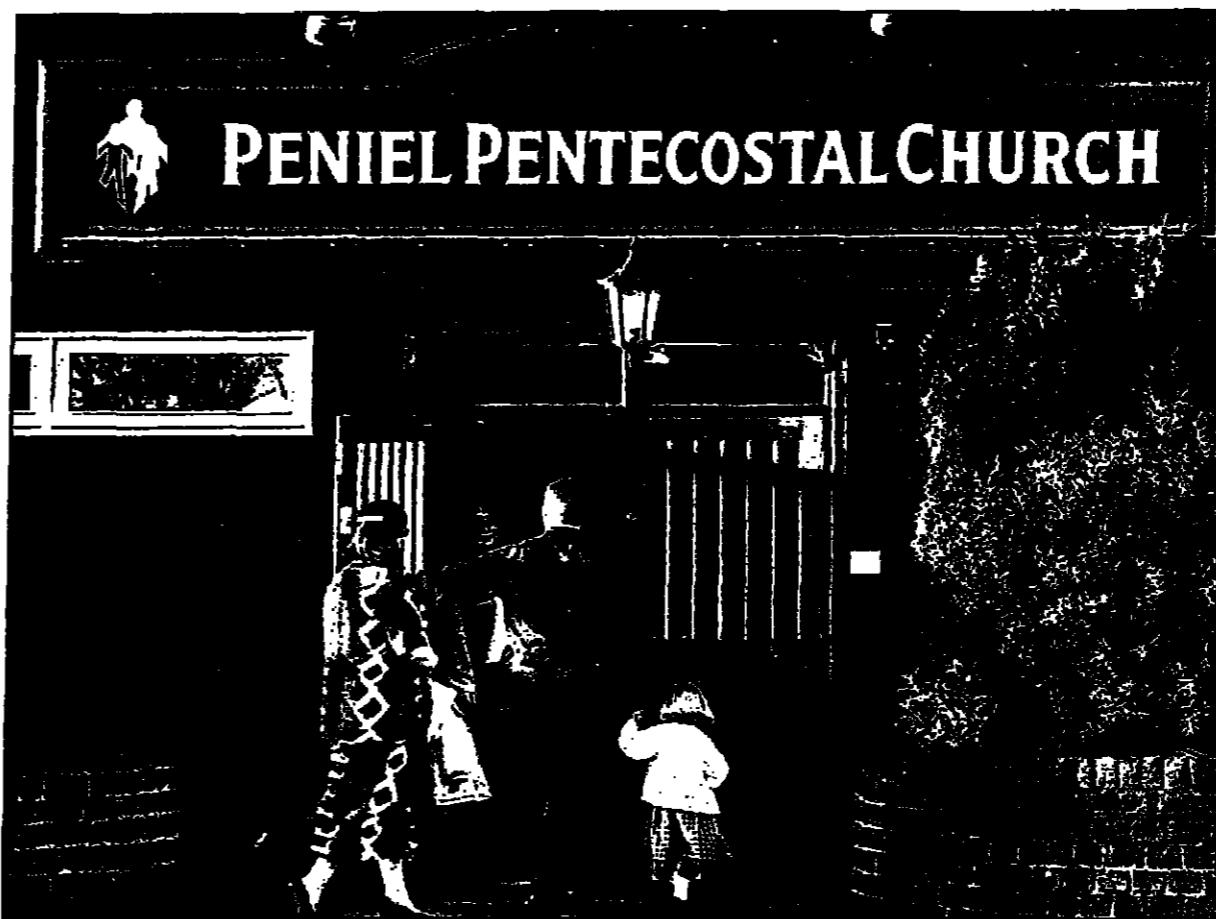
When *The Independent* attended a "Bible lesson" at the church last week the bishop, 55, dressed in a striped blazer, began and ended his sermon by encouraging worshippers to buy videos and books from Alive UK Ltd. Alive is one of seven directorships he holds in companies jointly owned with Dr Linneacar.

Julia Roworth, who has left the church, was a volunteer in the video editing department. "We did sell quite a lot of videos, especially when we had conferences. We filmed the conference then edited out anything controversial, which is most of it sometimes. Talking about Prince Charles's ears or left pinkies or whatever," she said.

The bishop's lessons are often expressed in colourful language. A Muslim who refused to renounce her faith was "a blithering woman", while visiting a topless beach was akin to "doing a dump outside your own back door".

Peniel Pentecostal Church is a member of the Evangelical Alliance, which refuses to talk about the church. It is also a registered charity whose latest accounts show an annual income of £2m. Its 800-odd members are encouraged to live nearby and to give 10 per cent of their income to the church. Many send their children to the church school, the Peniel Academy, which has just moved into a £1.3m listed mansion set in 74 acres in Brize Park, Essex.

Dr Linneacar and the bishop live in large detached houses next to the church. In the bishop's drive are a top-of-the-range Mercedes, registration B2 PPC



Members of the Peniel Church congregation arriving for the evening service on Good Friday Neville Elder

member of the International Community of Charismatic Churches (ICCC), formed in 1983 by the late Nigerian Archbishop Benson Idahosa, a Nigerian. It was the archbishop who gave Mr Reid his bishopric.

Bishop Reid holds several positions in this group, including Bishop of Europe. Links to other evangelical groups include courses run by the Peniel College of Higher Education, which sells degree courses supplied by the Oral Roberts Uni-

versity. Oral Roberts, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, recently locked himself in a tower and threatened that God would "call him home" unless \$4.5m was donated before a self-imposed deadline.

Robin Ware, a former Peniel member whose ex-wife took some of the courses, is sceptical: "He is offering people degrees and diplomas off the back of what are no better than GCSE courses," he said.

In January last year about 120 Peniel members joined the

Conservative Party, though members of the area's new Independent Conservative group, who claim 300 members themselves, say the figure is as high as 500 today.

Dr Tony Gilbraith, Independent Conservative councillor for Shirehampton ward of Brentwood, believes the links with religious groups in the southern US are significant: "It's quite common for churches to get involved in politics there. I think he's trying to do the same thing here."

Caroline Kean, a solicitor representing Bishop Reid, said last night that his house was owned by the church and that he had sold his own house, giving the proceeds to the school and church. She said church finances were not run by the bishop but by the trustees.

The car number plates, she said, were a gift and because Bishop Reid is tall he could not drive a much smaller vehicle. The price paid, she added, "was less than for a Ford Granada".

Beckett attacks 'laddish Labour'

BY PAUL WAUGH AND
SARAH SCHAEFER

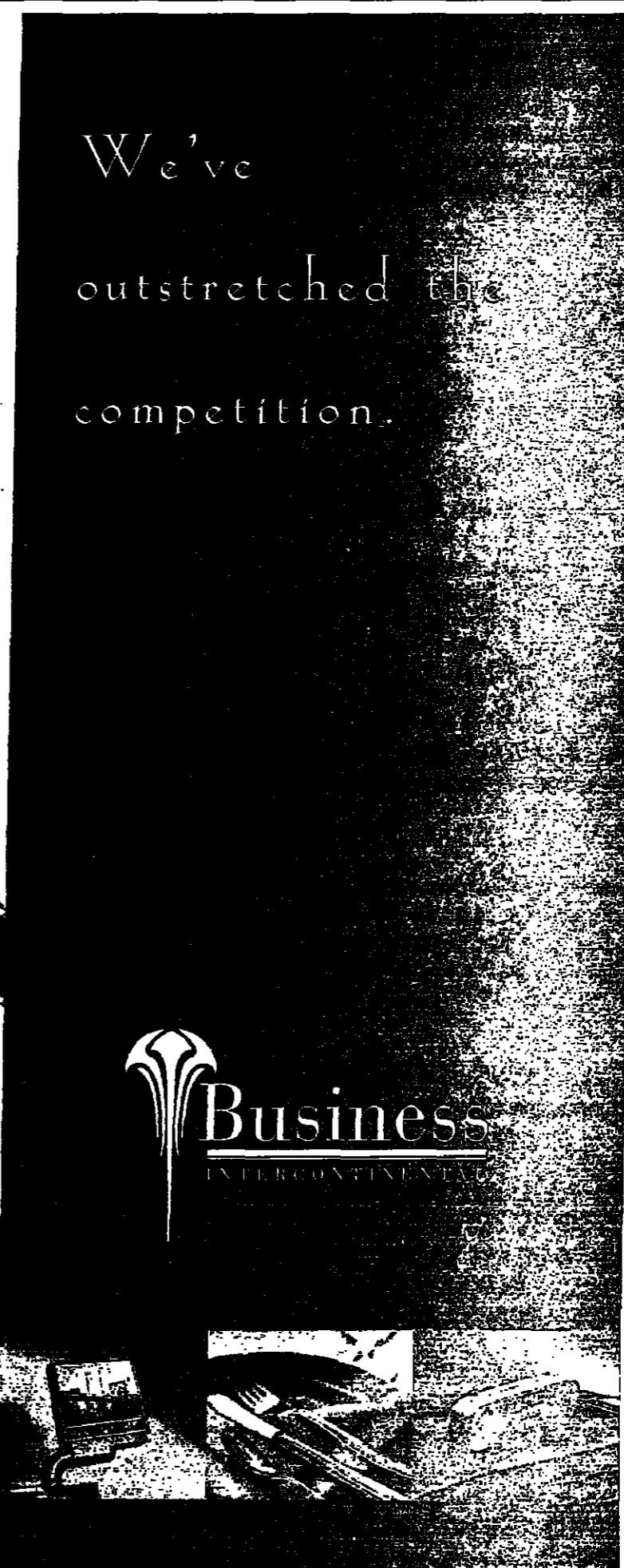
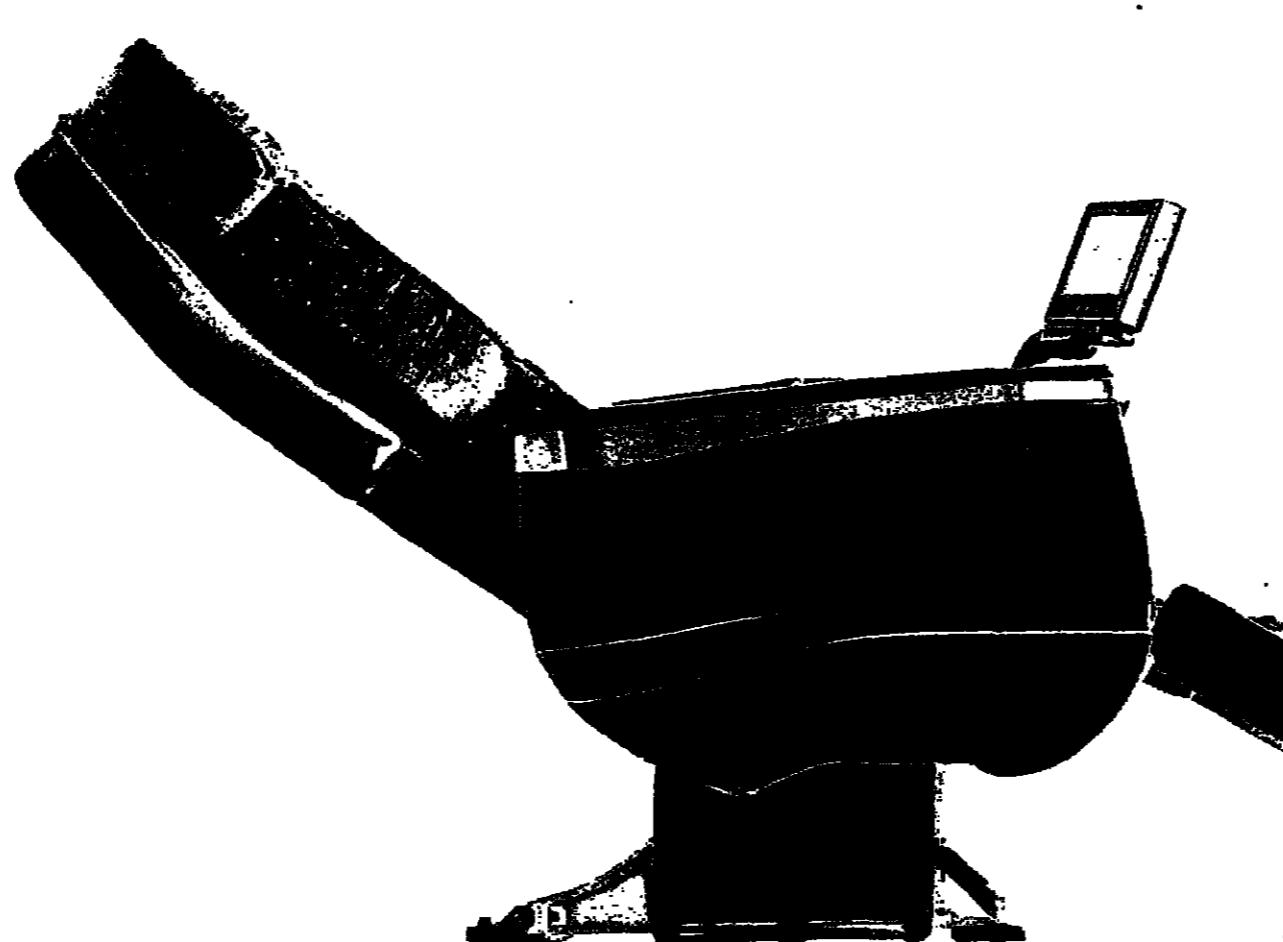
LABOUR'S FEMINIST credentials suffered a double blow yesterday when Margaret Beckett attacked "laddish" elements within the party and the Government was accused of undermining its own women's unit.

Mrs Beckett, the Leader of the Commons and one of only three women in the Cabinet, said she had been a victim of sexism at the hands of Labour and the media.

"It's a problem for anyone who the lads don't think is one of the lads," she said. Mrs Beckett added that the idea of "Blair's babes" trivialised the role of women in Parliament.

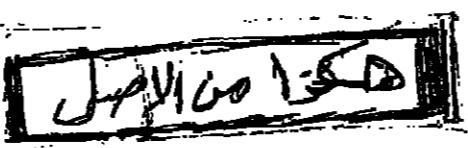
Her criticisms were backed up by senior Labour sources, who accused ministers of failing to give the Government's Women's Unit the high-profile backing it needed. The unit was moved into the Cabinet Office last year in an attempt to give it the same status as the Social Exclusion Unit, but has not received the same degree of publicity or support.

Mary Ann Stephenson, from the Fawcett Society, said: "Tony Blair has campaigned a lot for the Social Exclusion Unit but there is a feeling that not the same publicity has been given to women's issues."



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THE MONDAY RE



Young musicians get in some open-air practice in preparation for the 1999 European Youth Festival of Brass, which was held over the weekend at St Margaret's Roman Catholic School in Livingston, West Lothian

David Moir/Newsflash

Pro-euro Tories in election rebellion

PRO-EUROPEAN Tories are likely to ruin William Hague's hopes of victory in the Newark by-election by fielding their own candidate.

The breakaway group is preparing to split the Conservative Party's vote by contesting the seat left vacant by the conviction of the Labour MP Fiona Jones of election fraud.

Sources within the pro-euro Conservative Party have told *The Independent* that the by-election is "too good an opportunity to miss" to get across its message. The rebel grouping, which recently had its title officially approved despite protests from Conservative Central Office, was formed this year by former Tory MEPs who resigned in protest at Mr Hague's hard line on the single currency.

Faced with a Labour majority of just over 3,000, the Conservatives would need only a small swing to win back a seat they had held for decades until 1997. The Tories were also hoping that the absence of the anti-federalist Referendum Party would give them an edge.

But recent polls have shown that breakaway pro-European Tory candidates could attract significant support and a rebel candidate could take enough votes from the official Conservatives for a Labour victory.

Michael Ancram, the Conservative Party chairman, admitted recently that a "wrecking campaign" by pro-euro rebels could split the Tory vote in the June European elections.

No date has been set for the Newark poll, but Labour sources have suggested June 10 - to coincide with the European elections and increase Tory division on Europe. As the rebel Tories are already fielding can-

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

didates in the MEP elections, they have now said they would "definitely" contest the Nottinghamshire poll if held on the same day. Even if the Government opts for May 6 - the date of local council elections, the breakaway group is poised to put up a candidate simply to raise its profile.

John Stevens, who helped to found the new party with his fellow MEP Brendan Donnelly, has already warned the Newark party not to use Eurosceptic language or tactics in the by-election. "If William Hague chooses to make the euro the real issue in the by-election by pursuing a Eurosceptic agenda and bad-mouthing Ken Clarke, then he's got a fight on his hands," a pro-euro source said.

Ms Jones was forced to quit last month when a court found her guilty of breaching limits on campaign spending in the 1997 general election. Last week, the Tories selected Richard Alexander, MP for Newark for 18 years until he lost to Ms Jones, as their official candidate for the constituency.

Mr Stevens has written to the chairman of the Newark Conservative Association, warning it not to use Eurosceptic language in the by-election campaign. He said that as a Nottingham association, the local party should endorse the right of the nearby MP and former chancellor Kenneth Clarke "and those who think like him" to advocate his pro-euro views.

Mr Clarke was proposing a policy on the euro that he believed to be right, even though it was contrary to the current official line, Mr Stevens wrote.

Police to test CS alternative

POLICE CHIEFS are investigating trials of a safer alternative to CS spray.

The decision by the Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) follows pressure from the chief constables of Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Sussex, who have refused to issue CS spray to their officers amid fears that it could cause lasting harm.

Acpo is planning to examine

BY IAN BURRELL

the effectiveness of pelargonic acid vanillylamide, an alternative incapacitant made up of a synthetic chemical related to pepper spray, which does not use the propellant MIBK.

A Home Office-commissioned report by scientists at Porton Down, leaked last year, warned that MIBK could be poisonous and carcinogenic.

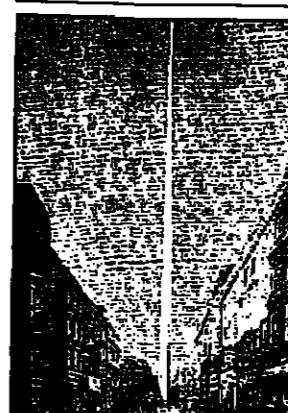
MILES KINGTON
Find out why black
Fruit Pastilles are always
the most popular

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW

PAGE 2

Big spike aims to be Dublin's Eiffel Tower

BY KATHY MARKS



The so-called spike will dominate O'Connell Street

THIRTY-THREE years after an IRA bomb blew Admiral Nelson off his plinth in Dublin, plans to replace the monument with a modernistic steel spike have provoked an Irish identity crisis.

The 120-metre-high spire is to be built in O'Connell Street and will dominate the Dublin skyline. City fathers hope it will come to symbolise the Irish capital in the 21st century.

But as excavations began last week, the noise of drilling was accompanied by the grumblings of residents. Sceptical Dubliners referred to the new monument - designed by an English architect, Ian Ritchie - as "the spike". One local said: "It looks like a needle, which is unfortunate in the light of Dublin's heroin problem."

Nelson's Pillar was the focal point of O'Connell Street until it was demolished by an IRA bomb planted to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising. Dubliners used to meet "at the pillar", and visitors climbed to a platform at the top.

Mr Ritchie's slender steel

Dublin's Champs-Elysées, so the theory goes, and the spire will be its Eiffel Tower.

The new monument was the winning entry in an international competition. It will be visible all over Dublin when it is erected at the end of this year to mark the new millennium.

But many residents are less than enthusiastic. Some wanted a figurative monument. Candidates suggested included Michael Collins, the Irish nationalist leader, and the author James Joyce. Others favoured a religious theme, such as a statue of St Patrick.

"It will be an eyesore," pronounced one woman, surveying a model of the spire last week. "It's too cold; it's soulless," said a bearded young man.

However, Tony Duggan, the senior architect with Dublin Corporation, disagreed. "It was felt to be a symbol of a modern Ireland, a very strong image, a beacon for the city, a clear statement of the confidence that Ireland has at the end of the 20th century," he said.

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Chinese-US relations hit a new low

WITH DIPLOMATIC relations dogged by scandal and stalemate, the Chinese Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, arrives in the United States this week for an eight-day tour that will be eclipsed by war in the Balkans.

But the shadow over Mr Zhu's visit is unlikely to dispel either side's US-China relations are, by common consent, as bad as at any point in Bill Clinton's presidency.

On NBC television yesterday, the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, confirmed that she would raise the issue of Chinese espionage at US research institutions. The charges burst into the US media last month with reports that China had stolen the blueprints for miniaturised nuclear warheads from a laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

An outcry in Washington, led by the increasingly strong anti-China lobby in Congress, prompted tighter security at scientific research establishments and the dismissal of a Taiwan-born Los Alamos scientist after questioning by the FBI. The spying allegations, which

have still not been proved, revived the acrimonious debate about China policy that has been a leitmotif of the Washington political scene during Mr Clinton's presidency.

China was angered by US congressional votes to proceed with anti-ballistic missile research, fearing that the East Asian security balance could be upset if such "star wars" protection were afforded to Taiwan. And it has been disappointed by its failure to obtain US approval for its membership of the World Trade Organisation.

Washington, in turn, has watched in recent months as headway it believed had been made on human rights went into reverse. There have also been claims that China tried to influence the last presidential election by making illegal contributions to the Clinton-Gore campaign. The Chinese have denied such charges but the Republican Party and the media have continued to pursue them.

Only yesterday, the Los An-

ges Times reported that it had traced a contribution of \$300,000 (£187,000) to the head of the Chinese security service, naming the intermediary as a Clinton associate, Johnny Chung.

The timing of the article (two days before Zhu Rongji arrives in Los Angeles) was hardly coincidental. The party funding issue is an especially sore point with the administration and it could affect Vice-President Al Gore's prospects of winning the presidency next year.

Officials in Washington and Peking insist that relations are not in such bad health as these frictions suggest.

Trade is the one area where interests converge, and the one that critics of the US-China policy say has been fostered at the expense of all else. The US wants to reduce China's huge trade surplus with it, at a time when the US trade deficit overall has been swollen by the economic crisis in Asia.

But Washington is even more keen to keep China from devaluing its currency - a temptation that China, to Washington's satisfaction, has so far resisted.

Jim Viola and Margaret Humphries embracing in a devastated trailer park in Benton, Louisiana yesterday AP



Wang: Heading home to 'sweep his father's grave'

FOR WANG XIZHE, today will be a sort of homecoming, but not the kind of return an exiled son would really wish for.

Mr Wang, one of China's most famous dissidents, who has lived in America since 1996, will step off his flight from New York to Peking at lunchtime. Ostensibly, he will be going home to pay his respects at the grave of his father, who died in February. But the reception he

returning to their homeland in being turned back at the border in what appears to be a policy of making dissidents indefinitely exiled and stateless. In the past six months at least three exiles who have managed to slip back into the country have been arrested and jailed.

Mr Wang is returning at a time when the Chinese authorities are cracking down on democracy campaigners in

advance of the 10th anniversary in June of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The Qing Ming festival on 5 April is the day Chinese honour their dead loved ones and has been politically charged ever since anti-government protests erupted 23 years ago.

Fellow exiles in America said that Mr Wang had told them that he wanted to go back to "sweep his father's grave",

a traditional sign of respect for the dead. But his planned return is clearly also a test for Peking's resolve.

Chinese authorities refused to let Mr Wang return when his father died, heightening fears among exiled dissidents that the government was trying to neutralise the danger they posed.

On Saturday, 50 members of a banned opposition party at

Hunt for tornado victims goes on

A TORNADO killed at least six people and injured 100 more when it ripped a trail of destruction four miles wide through the American South on Saturday afternoon.

Witnesses said the huge twister destroyed several dozen trailer homes and houses when it touched down near Benton, a town of 2,000 about 10 miles north of Shreveport in north-western Louisiana at 4.30pm (11.30pm BST).

"This is a terrible, terrible disaster," the local sheriff, Larry Deen, said. "I've lived here all my life and there's never been anything like this."

Chuck Mazzio, director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness for Bossier Parish, said six deaths were confirmed at the hardest-hit trailer park and officials were trying to confirm reports of three more deaths near Cypress Lake.

"There may well be more," he said.

"The half-mile-square mobile home park was just destroyed, and until we get someone who worked there, we don't know how many trailers there were or the number of people in them."

"We don't even know how many people we're looking for. We've got mobile homes piled on top of each other two and three deep." (Reuters)

Leading dissident risks arrest on return to China

BY DARIUS SANAI

replies will determine how serious the Chinese government is about a political crackdown that is seeking to wipe out all memory of the country's democracy movement and silence remaining critics through imprisonment, exile and fear.

Dissident exiles have

recently been barred from returning to their homeland in being turned back at the border in what appears to be a policy of making dissidents indefinitely exiled and stateless. In the past six months at least three exiles who have managed to slip back into the country have been arrested and jailed.

Mr Wang is returning at a time when the Chinese authorities are cracking down on democracy campaigners in

advance of the 10th anniversary in June of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

The Qing Ming festival on 5 April is the day Chinese honour their dead loved ones and has been politically charged ever since anti-government protests erupted 23 years ago.

Fellow exiles in America said that Mr Wang had told them that he wanted to go back to "sweep his father's grave",

wrote one of modern China's most famous anti-government petitions, published in 1974, during the twilight years of Mao Tse-tung's rule.

He spent 14 of the next 19 years in prison for campaigning for democracy, and left China illicitly three years ago on hearing that the author of a similar petition had been jailed.

On Saturday, 50 members of a banned opposition party at

tempted to lay wreaths in the eastern city of Hangzhou in honour of the Tiananmen Square victims, a Hong Kong-based human rights group said.

One group was turned back by police but 20 of the dissidents were allowed to hold a minute's silence at a martyrs' memorial in the city. "Remember the people who gave their lives for freedom and democracy", read the wreath they left behind.

SPECIAL OFFER: HALF-PRICE HOTEL BREAKS

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have joined forces with Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts to offer readers a fabulous weekend promotion. Numerous hotels in the UK and Europe are participating, offering four and five-star accommodation from as little as £69.50 per double room per night inclusive of breakfast and tax.

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Rate: £269.50 per double room per night.
In the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, close to famous museums, chic

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Rate: £275 per double room per night.
In the city centre, close to Princes Street, Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, the entertainment area and other attractions.

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Rate: DM147.50 per double room per night.
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Munich

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Modern hotel in the city centre, near the River Isar and famous Deutsches Museum. The subway station is within the same building complex with direct access to the main tourist and shopping areas.

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Centrally located in the heart of the business district, with a spectacular view of the Acropolis.

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Hotel Inter-Continental
Rate: DM149 per double room per night.
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Frankfurt

Hotel Inter-Continental
Rate: DM147.50 per double room per night.
On the River Main, close to the city centre, business, banking, theatre and main shopping areas.

Brussels

Europa Inter-Continental
Rate: Bfr2175 per double room per night.
Fabulous location, next to the EC Headquarters and the European Parliament.

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Name	Address
Postcode	Booking Ref. No.

SEND TO: The Independent Inter-Continental Offer, Public Relations Dept., Hotel Inter-Continental London, 1 Hamilton Place, Hyde Park Corner, London, W1V 0QY



THE INDEPENDENT
Terms and Conditions:
1. The special rates quoted are only available until the end of May 1999 with a minimum two-night stay. 2. All reservations are subject to availability. 3. Rates are payable in local currency and do not include travel. 4. No photocopied tokens. 5. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other promotion.
6. Promoter: Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts

INTER-CONTINENTAL
HOTELS AND RESORTS

Hunt for
tornado
victims
goes on

A TORNADO killed at least 16 people and injured 160 more when it ripped a trail of destruction four miles wide through the American South on Saturday afternoon.

Witnesses said the huge twister destroyed several mobile trailer homes and houses when it touched down near Bentwood, a town of 3,000 about 10 miles north of Shreveport in north-western Louisiana at 4pm (11pm BST).

"This is a terrible, terrible disaster," the local sheriff, Larry Dean, said. "I've lived here all my life and there's never been anything like this."

Chuck Mazzocca, director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness for Bossier Parish, said six deaths were confirmed at the hardest-hit trailer park and officials were trying to firm up reports of three more deaths near Cypress Lake.

"There may well be more," he said.

"The half-mile-square mobile home park was just destroyed and until we get someone in to work there, we don't know how many trailers there are or the number of people in them."

"We don't even know how many people we're talking about. We've got mobile homes all the top of each other right at three deep," he said.

"There may well be more," he said.

"The half-mile-square mobile

home park was just destroyed

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Deputy Business & City Editor: Michael Harrison
News desk: 0171-293 2836 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BRIEFING

Tie Rack set for £20m Italian bid
TIE RACK is set to be taken over by an Italian clothing manufacturer in a deal valuing the specialist retail chain at around £20m. Ferria, one of Europe's leading fashion houses, is this week expected to table a bid worth just over 40p a share. The offer is understood to have the backing of Tie Rack's chairman, Roy Bishko, who would retain a stake in the business. Tie Rack shares have plunged from a high of more than 200p to 35p, and earlier this year it warned of a £7.5m loss in the 12 months to the end of January. In the last year Tie Rack has rebuffed a takeover approach from the privately owned Sock Shop, while an attempt at a management buy-out has also foundered.

GEC eyes £1.5bn telecoms deals
GEC IS POISED to expand its presence in telecoms with twin takeover deals that could cost up to £1.5bn. The group, which is focusing on telecoms and electronic systems following the sale of its defence arm, Marconi, to British Aerospace, is said to be close to a £1bn deal to buy a US data-networking group, GEC, led by chief executive Lord Simpson (pictured), is also thought to be eyeing Robert Bosch's telecoms business, which is worth about £500m.

BA offers loans for holidays

BRITISH AIRWAYS is to start offering loans of between £500 and £15,000 to customers to help pay for their holidays. It is the first step in an expansion of BA's financial services division, which could eventually see the airline running a full-scale retail banking operation. The loan service, operated in conjunction with First National Tricity Finance, will be available through BA travel shops. BA already provides travel insurance and travellers' cheques.

STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100									
Index	Class	Wk ch	Wk% ch	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)			
FTSE 100	6330.00	190.80	3.11	6399.1	4599.2	2.457			
FTSE 250	5453.30	-0.60	-0.01	5970.9	4247.6	3.255			
FTSE 350	3003.20	76.50	2.61	3031.2	2310.4	2.58			
FTSE All Share	2906.22	71.18	2.51	2931.89	2143.53	2.629			
FTSE SmallCap	2405.00	10.70	0.45	2793.8	1834.4	3.639			
FTSE Fledgling	1304.70	6.20	0.48	1517.1	1046.2	4.027			
FTSE AIM	688.50	9.10	1.05	1166.9	761.3	1.166			
FTSE Eurotop 100	2930.87	73.66	2.58	3079.27	2018.15	1.963			
FTSE Eurotop 300	1261.08	23.42	1.89	1332.07	880.63	1.897			
Dow Jones	9832.51	10.57	0.11	10085.31	7400.9	1.611			
Nikkei	16290.19	273.20	1.71	16756.89	12878.9	0.786			
Hang Seng	11072.98	269.67	2.50	11506.03	8544.98	3.21			
Dax	4914.59	139.42	2.92	6217.83	3833.71	1.639			
S&P 500	1288.72	10.92	0.85	1323.88	923.32	1.239			
Nasdaq	2498.37	74.20	3.07	2533.44	1357.09	0.786			
Toronto 300	6624.81	-10.39	-0.16	7837.7	5320.9	1.588			
Barclays Bovespa	10696.35	-169.09	-1.56	12339.14	4575.69	4.85			
Belgium Bel20	3265.25	37.30	1.16	3719.21	2696.26	2.018			
Amsterdam Exch	533.63	8.07	1.54	600.65	366.58	1.878			
France CAC 40	4229.85	114.14	2.77	4404.94	2881.21	1.709			
Milan MIB30	36611.00	961.00	2.79	3917.0	2417.5	1.054			
Madrid Ibex 35	9740.70	81.60	0.83	10089.8	6869.9	1.799			
Irish Dóilair	5286.88	30.69	0.58	5581.7	3732.57	1.572			
S Korea Comp	646.78	34.99	6.07	651.95	277.37	1.096			
Australia ASX	2973.40	-23.20	-0.77	3005.2	2386.7	3.096			

INTEREST RATES

UK INTEREST RATES		US INTEREST RATES	
3 month	1 year	3 month	1 year
5.40	—	5.40	—
5.20	—	5.20	—
5.00	—	5.00	—
4.80	—	4.80	—
4.60	—	4.60	—
3m 6m 1y 2y 3y 4y 5y 6y 7y		3m 6m 1y 2y 3y 4y 5y 6y 7y	

MONEY MARKET RATES

3 month		1 year		Yr chg		10 year		Yr chg	
UK	US	UK	US	Yr chg	Yr chg	UK	US	Yr chg	Yr chg
5.31	-2.29	5.25	-2.36	4.53	-1.29	4.51	1.22		
5.00	-2.70	5.25	-0.62	5.20	0.35	5.59	0.25		
0.18	-0.49	0.25	-0.42	1.73	-0.13	2.47	0.01		
2.93	-0.69	2.93	-0.98	4.02	-0.88	4.98	-0.48		

CURRENCIES

S/E		G/E	
1.72	1.60	1.50	1.40
1.60	—	1.50	—
1.50	—	1.40	—
1.40	—	1.30	—
1.30	—	1.20	—
1.20	—	1.10	—
1.10	—	1.00	—
1.00	—	0.90	—
0.90	—	0.80	—
0.80	—	0.70	—
0.70	—	0.60	—
0.60	—	0.50	—
0.50	—	0.40	—
0.40	—	0.30	—
0.30	—	0.20	—
0.20	—	0.10	—
0.10	—	0.00	—

OTHER INDICATORS

Class	Wk's ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next figs
Brent Oil (\$)	14.17	0.04	13.68	GDP	115.40	3.00 -112.04 Mar
Gold (\$)	279.85	-3.45	302.55	RPI	163.70	2.10 160.33 Mar
Silver (\$)	5.01	-0.05	6.45	Base Rates	5.50	7.25

ON 5pm

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TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.4932	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.52
Austria (schillings)	19.68	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1550
Belgium (francs)	57.86	New Zealand (\$)	2.9154
Canada (\$)	2.3853	Norway (krone)	12.48
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8270	Portugal (escudos)	285.55
Denmark (kroner)	10.71	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8507
Finland (markka)	8.5432	Singapore (\$)	2.6386
France (francs)	9.3938	South Africa (rands)	9.5404
Germany (marks)	2.8097	Spain (pesetas)	237.54
Greece (drachma)	461.97	Sweden (kronor)	13.00
Hong Kong (\$)	12.07	Switzerland (francs)	2.2891
Ireland (pounds)	1.1267	Thailand (bahts)	54.16
Indian (rupees)	61.35	Turkey (lira)	551955
Israel (shekels)	5.9970	USA (\$)	1.5686
Italy (lira)	2.786		
Japan (yen)	169.52		
Malaysia (ringgit)	5.8971		
Malta (lira)	0.6145		</

Edie's
Fever
collected
in his
controversial
celebration

Where are all the assistant mistresses?

NOW THAT the awards season is in full swing with Oscars for every profession, except unfortunately the oldest, I am redoubling my efforts to win some sort of prize. I did once have the honour of winning the prize of a rather grand dinner from several colleagues for the biggest gaffe in a journalistic career. Mine occurred when I was a cub reporter in Taunton and Margaret Thatcher was visiting. Asked by the news desk of the paper I then worked for to invent the front-page story with some colour, I wrote with cub-like innocence that "Mrs Thatcher who had spent the night at the home of local MP Edward Du Cann emerged the following morning happy and smiling". All over the West Country people were giggling in a most unpleasant manner.

However, national awards, wrongly in my view, do not recognise the gaffe of the year. And since I have been overlooked by this year's journalistic prize-givers, I have decided to go for a literary prize. I am encouraged in this as many of these prizes are awarded for introducing local subject matter into a literary work. Living in Pinner, a suburb already immortalised in verse by Betjeman, the opportunities are endless. Betjeman seemed to be engulfed with suburban angst when he wrote:

"Dear Charles and Carrie, I am sure,

Despise that awkward Sunday dinner.

Your lives were good and more secure

Than ours at cocktail time in Pinner."

But now that we have learnt Betjeman was a wartime spy, all becomes much clearer. The awkwardness must have referred to his Sunday debriefings. Perhaps he had infiltrated one of the six (I kid you not) local tennis clubs and divulged the top-secret minutes from the committee meetings. The cocktail time had long puzzled me, but who knows what hidden speakeasy the late poet laureate had discovered at the back of the Love Lane Tearooms. Add some love interest with the girl guide leader's moonlit walk with the stockbroker in the memorial park; and all the ingredients of a blockbuster are there.

AN EVEN better setting than Pinner for a novella, or better still a play or film, would be the Liverpool Institute school in the 1950s. The school



DAVID
LISTER

ON MONDAY

at that time contained Peter Sissons, who went on, of course, to become a newsreader; Derek Hatton, who became a leading firebrand with the Militant Tendency; and Paul McCartney who went on to become Sir Paul McCartney. Peter Sissons once told me that Hatton had accused him years later of bullying him, a vision to boggle the mind. Surely there must have been a rainy afternoon when the three gathered in a deserted classroom and discussed their aspirations. Perhaps Hatton and Sissons were offered drums and rhythm guitar respectively in Paul's new group but were too immersed in school politics and journalism to be interested. It has all the markings of a Tom Stoppard script. And if Sir Tom is worried that there is one ingredient missing for an Oscar nomination then no doubt there was a scouse school matron perfect for Gwyneth Paltrow.

EASTER IS a time of quiet reflection, unless you are a teacher – when it is the one time of year you can unwind from weeks of having to be a role model and yell abuse at a cabinet minister. The conferences of the teachers' unions

are bizarre rituals that I used to cover when I was an education correspondent. What used to puzzle me most, as I studied train timetables to get from Scarborough to Bournemouth then nip across to Oxford via Harrogate, was why there needed to be quite so many teachers' unions (half a dozen or more) and why teachers, who are bright about most things, didn't realise how that fact diminished their bargaining power. And the nomenclature was all but meaningless. You might have thought that the one thing that distinguished the Secondary Heads Association from its rival head-teachers' union, the National Association of Headteachers, was that it had more secondary heads. Not a bit of it. It had fewer. And the poor classroom teacher always had about five different unions trying to recruit him or her. The first day in the staffroom must have seen more bullying than in the playground. Some of the more exotic names have disappeared, alas – The Association of Assistant Mistresses could set the pulse racing. But despite amalgamations there are still too many teachers' unions. What's more, the different union conferences always had nearly identical agendas. The Secretary of State for Education would attend all of them and make virtually identical speeches.

My favourite was the late Keith Joseph, who would effortlessly quell even the rowdiest NUT audience by asking them to put their hands up. He'd say something along the lines of "How many of you teach history, how many of you do after-school sport" etc. He must have sensed that teachers have an uncontrollable reflex resulting from years in the classroom. When asked to raise their hands they immediately stop heckling and do so.

AT THIS time of year I grow antagonistic towards Nick Hornby. It is the climax of the football season and I should be experiencing a private delight in the discomfort of my fellow man, as my team, Arsenal, are in with a shout for the league and cup. But Hornby's wretched book and movie has made



Peter Sissons and Derek Hatton missed out on forming the Beatles with fellow Liverpool Institute pupil Paul McCartney

supporting Arsenal irritatingly fashionable. When I was a boy and a supporter of the then-boring – and usually losing – club it was something you kept quiet about. They had no style, no stars, and the nearest thing to a celebrity supporter was Pete Murray, a decidedly unfriendly disc jockey. But being in a small unfashionable minority gave you a sense of perverse pride. It was a rite of passage. Now the combination of Hornby and a continental manager and players means that every tom, dick and literary editor you meet follows Arsenal. I even find increasing numbers of arty young women claiming allegiance. A Royal Academy staff member told me she fit

ted in seeing exhibitions around the demands of her season ticket.

And worse, whereas we Arsenal supporters used to be independently minded with a talent for witty, risqué, provocative and filthy terrace songs, a large screen at the ground now instructs supporters not only when to sing but what to sing. The anodyne "Come On You Reds" is flashed up at regular intervals with a giant computer graphic of two hands clapping for those with reading difficulties. The crowd never fails to take its cue. This is Orwellian football supporting indeed, with Big Brother now a cheerleader. I can comfort myself only by imagining what graphics such a screen might have contained in the more anarchic days when I first started going to Highbury. Perhaps a simulated pitch invasion, or the referee's parents declaring they really were married.

doctors with stethoscopes at the entrance to every auditorium barring the way to the bronchial cases who like to spend their evenings in the warmth of the stalls.

Audiences have had it too easy for too long. Film directors should be empowered to decree whether popcorn can be munched in the cinema. Novelists should be entitled to a view on whether their book loses something by being read on a crowded train. And while we're about it, owing to the delicate nature of this article, it should not be read with the television on, with children in the room or by anyone sitting opposite a genuine purifier reading the front page.

John Walsh is away

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THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3888 Monday 5 April

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- Garment in attractive style (4)
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FULL COVERAGE OF EASTER SPORT IN 16-PAGE SECTION

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5 April 1999

Davis Cup: Martin can find no answer to British No 1's courage in tense final day's play

Henman the marathon manBY JOHN ROBERTS
in Birmingham

AN EPIC Davis Cup tie between Britain and the United States at the National Indoor Arena here went to a fifth match after a test of endurance between the No 1 players. Britain's Tim Henman pushed his time on court to 10 hours and 44 minutes for the three days in defeating Todd Martin, who was nursing a strained stomach muscle, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4).

"Three hours 17 minutes is a little bit short for me," Henman said in jest to the 9,320 spectators, adding with refreshing honesty: "I think the match turned on a questionable call. You've got to take them when they come your way."

The call in question was a backhand volley from Martin that would have taken the American to 4-3, 40-15 after he had just broken Henman in the second set. The ball appeared to land on the line, but was called wide. Martin, clearly unsettled by the decision, overhit his next backhand volley over the baseline to offer a break point, and Henman converted it with a backhand down the line for 4-4.

"Walking off the court, I hated to feel like I wanted to make an excuse for myself," Martin said. "It was my fault that I lost my concentration, but it would have been a lot easier to keep my concentration if that call had been made properly. I would not expect Tim to give me the point in this situation – in a singles match in a tournament somewhere, but not in Davis Cup. It is possible he could have seen it wrong, and that I could have seen it wrong, and the linesman could have seen it correct; but I don't think so."

After controlling events until that juncture, Martin found himself in a contest. He double-faulted to 15-40 in the 12th game, Henman taking the second of the set points, returning a second serve so well that Martin could do no more than hit a backhand into the net. The match was one hour and 37 minutes old, and Henman's revival was under way, backed by an louder walls of sound than before. "[The crowd] were keeping me in it in the first two sets when he was dominating," Henman said.

The opening set had ominous signs that Martin was about to take charge, as he had done in three of their four previous matches, including the quarter-final at Wimbledon in 1996. Although the American began to bunt with the crowd as early as the fifth game, he was calm enough to take advantage of Henman's erratic serve and forehand to break for 4-3, setting himself with a superb forehand lob to 30-40. Henman had a break point for 4-4, Martin rescuing himself with an ace and two service winners.

Once Henman had levelled the match, the usually affable Martin found himself at odds with the spectators more often than was good for



Tim Henman celebrates his four-set triumph over Todd Martin. The victory took Britain's Davis Cup tie against the United States into a decisive fifth rubber yesterday

David Ashdown

his game. Bouncing the ball while waiting for noises off court to subside tended to irritate the excited crowd, and a ball Martin hit at the advertising hoarding at the back of the court came close to striking a line judge.

Henman won the opening three games of the third set, but Martin broke back for 2-3 on his fourth break point of the fifth game. The American was to save three break points in the sixth game, but double-faulted to 0-40 to give Henman

the opening he needed at 4-3, the Briton punishing a second serve. Martin's condition was not improved when he tumbled while attempting to intercept a backhand volley that gave Henman his second set point. Martin was then unable to keep a backhand in play down the line.

In spite of his set-backs, Martin

seemed certain to force the match into a fifth set after breaking for 5-3 in the fourth, Henman netting a backhand on the third break point.

Henman eased the tension by winning the first four points. Martin recovered one of the mini-breaks, for

2-4, but the shoot-out then pro-

ceeded with a serve. Henman took a 6-1 lead with his 18th ace, delivered at 120 mph, and was able to convert the first match point. Martin re-

turning serve with a backhand into the net. After shaking Martin's hand, Henman raised his arms in re-

sponse to the crowd's roars and then

raced to the side of the court for a

series of high-fives with his team

mates and the coaching and training staff.

It had been a memorable week-

ender for the 24-year-old from Oxford, starting with the disappointment of losing the opening match to Jim Courier in five sets on Friday, and then partnering Greg Rusedski to a five-sets victory in Saturday's

doubles.

Bunny Austin, 32, a member of the

only British team ever to win a tie

from 0-2, against Germany at Lon-

don's Queen's Club on 24 April 1990, said he watched every ball on television. He thought the doubles victory by Henman and Rusedski

against Martin and Alex O'Brien was wonderful. "The way they played was absolutely beautiful," he said.

■ In an early shock

Sweden, the

holders, fell to a first-round exit at

the hands of Slovakia in front of their

own fans in Trolhattan yesterday.

The man who caused the damage

was the Slovak No 1, Karol Kucera,

who played in three matches at the

weekend and completed victory last

night by beating Thomas Enqvist in

four sets.

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The Second Coming

ABBOT ALE. WORSHIPPED SINCE 1799.



THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

Fields of dreams and sheep for the hoppers

WHILE OVER 6,000 non-League football fans were enjoying the plush surroundings of Rushden & Diamonds' Nene Park Stadium this weekend, around 300 other hardy souls were savouring more rustic fare deep in the West Country, writes Rupert Metcalfe from Appledore, Devon.

This Easter the Westward Developments Devon League has hosted its third and last annual Ground Hop. This is the highlight of the social calendar of the groundhoppers, fans who choose not to follow one team but instead tour

Britain and beyond visiting new football grounds in their spare time.

This year's Easter escapade started with a quiz on Thursday. Friday started with a match at Dartmouth, where the pitch was next to a field of sheep and a smelly heap of silage. This was followed by two games in Plymouth, at Oak Villa and then Plymouth Command, where naval warships were moored behind the grandstand.

Saturday saw three more games, at Stoke Gabriel, Newton Abbot and Crediton. "I don't know what to do with myself next year," he said.

KEY NUMBERS

7 The number of consecutive wins clocked up by Leeds United with Saturday's defeat of Nottingham Forest, an equal record best achieved by Don Revie's team.

200 Tony Cottee's career total of League goals following his eighth of this season at Tottenham.

957 The League appearances for Manchester United shared by four men in the Ewood Park dugout on Saturday: Kevin Keegan, Brian McClair of Blackburn Rovers, Bryan Robson and Viv Anderson of Middlesbrough.

I TOLD YOU SO

All the signs are that this is going to be the most successful season at the club since I've been here

Chesterfield's chairman, Ken Bates, speaking ahead of Saturday's win at Charlton. So far, so good...

Palmer hits out at Forest's will to fire

NOTTINGHAM FOREST and Carlton Palmer appear to be on a collision course – and not over the fence likely to follow the lanky midfielder's red card against Leeds on Saturday.

Even before his Elland Road dismissal, the 33-year-old had already launched a broadside against the club that paid £1.1m for his services just two months ago, expressing sentiments that sound strangely familiar.

Admitting that relegation from the Premiership is now a virtual certainty, Palmer took his cue from rebel teammate Pierre van Hooijdonk in making clear his thoughts about Forest's under-fire piolet.

"In the summer they will

have to spend money, it is as simple as that," Palmer said on Saturday. "I want to see who the manager will be and what ambition there is in terms of the back-up he will get. It can be hard to attract players to a struggling club but we have to try."

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Cambridge in cruise mode

ROWING

BY HUGH MATHESON

CAMBRIDGE EXTENDED their winning run in the Boat Race to seven years by once again, for the third year in succession, producing the fastest crew ever. It is not hyperbole or even unexpected. Their finishing time of 16min 41sec broke the previous record and would have been faster than last year's crew, but for the fact that the tide which pushed them up from Putney to Mortlake was weaker and there was no wind.

The Light Blue coaching team, which seems able to control everything else, has not yet brought the moon or the breeze under its command. In other sports the achievements of the pair are eclipsed by three good stars and one bad.

Improvements in equipment make it easier for each generation to outstrip the past. Improvements in training and technique which are not the same, but lumped together for this argument, are always important. The third good is the wider selection of the available pool of athletes and their superior physical condition. But the Cambridge secret has been the use and combination of the range and various styles and editions which have turned up on the first day of training each year. The bad is, of course, artificial aids such as, banned drugs, which are not part of this sporting tale.

There is a familiar complaint that the Boat Race is no longer between British-born undergraduates. That is because it has always been a private match between the two university clubs. The Boat Race armamen now, as then, provide an inaccurate representation of the two places. There have been lots of Americans, Canadians, Germans, Norwegians, Swedes, Serbs and Croats in the last few years because that is reflection of the student body of these places. As the number of races mounts there is also a greater probability that all the unique elements, tide, wind, a real crew and a tight race, will



Cambridge's Toby Wallace kisses Vian Sharif, the cox of the winning crew, before her traditional dunking after the Boat Race. Robert Hallom

come together on the same day. When that happened last year the old records went by 30 seconds.

This crew was equally capable but no one, least of all their own camp, was convinced they could pull it off. They had gone truly fast in training, finishing two 1,000m rows at Ely in 2min 43secs while trying out the different gearing of the oar length beyond the fulcrum. Then in

Nottingham the week before the race they had skinned a Notts County crew which, although largely composed of lightweights, was hugely experienced. One minute 17 seconds for 500m is respectable speed for a 2,000m Olympic crew and is not expected days before a four-and-a-half mile race.

When Cambridge won the toss they chose the Surrey side of the course because they hoped they could get the best of the stream in the first couple of

minutes and because they knew they had the speed to get to the first bend without suffering a disadvantage. Afterwards their coach, Robin Williams, said: "I never thought we could take the Fulham bend as well as we did. I could not allow myself the luxury of a smile but I felt we could win from there." Oxford, meanwhile, had looked so secure and confident in training that you could be convinced they would settle into a solid rhythm

and bide their time while Cambridge threw in their early fireworks, before moving to the front. But shortly after the bend had turned in their favour it was difficult to spot the moment when they tried the move. Already they were lacking dash and verve.

It was Tim Woode - who in training had been slowest to assimilate the Cambridge rhythm and, for some, the surprise choice for the key stroke seat

- who looked the sharper and Oxford's Colin von Ettinghausen, the world champion and Olympic silver medallist, who looked like he was pulling a block of lead. At Hammersmith the gap was still negligible for men of this character and discipline but with 40 clinical strokes Cambridge put the knife in, sweeping clear and leaving Oxford to find their way home, wallowing in their wake for the next three miles.

Slough slump to hosts' rout

HOCKEY

BY BILL COLWILL
in 's-Hertogenbosch

will play to stay in the A Division.

There was no such luck for Clifton in the Cup-Winners' Cup in Terrassa where they drew 1-1 with Lithuanian side Vaivoryste-Gintra and will also play off to defend England's place in the A Division.

Slough never recovered after conceding a goal in the eighth minute to the Argentinian centre-forward Vanina Oneto. The first of her three goals. The Dutch quickly moved into a three-goal lead before Jane Smith pulled one back for Slough, who trailed 6-1 at half-time. Smith scored a second and Sarah Kelleher third for the English champions but by now the Dutch had taken their total to eight.

Beeston, with goals from Scott Cordon and James Edington, drew 2-2 with Lille in Amstelveen in the men's club championship and, like Slough,

Result, Digest, page 11

Form with Mims as Sheffield block way

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

84-77 in the League a month ago. Giants have to lift themselves after the defeat against Sheffield, but must first decide whether to appeal against the two-game ban on coach Nick Nurse, which could keep him out of the quarter-final series with Birmingham Bullets.

Bullets, last season's play-off champions, were the victims of Saturday's surprise result when Leicester City Riders won 87-85 at Derby Storm. Four late points from Leicester's Gene Waldron forced a three-way tie which resulted in Newcastle Eagles finishing fifth, Derby sixth and Bullets seventh.

Quarter-Finals: Sheffield v Greater London, Manchester v Birmingham, Thames Valley v Derby, London v Newcastle.



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 **VAUXHALL**
Raising the Standard

BOOK
OF THE
WEEK**Godforsaken Sea**
by Derek Lundy
Yellow Jersey, £15.99
hardback

QUIET HOW James Bond would have wriggled out of the kind of life-threatening situations which afflict singlehanded ocean racers only M can say. Doubtless, if not rescuing someone himself, he would be rescued by a beautiful woman, the yacht would develop either wings and fly away, or fins and dive to underwater serenity.

Reality is rather different. The desolation of the more remote areas of the planet have been vaguely understood for a long time because of the pioneering voyages made by the explorers and men who opened up global trade in clipper ships.

More recently, satellite communications and television have brought detailed descriptions and pictures of what ferocious nature at its most malevolent can throw at those who dare to challenge its power deep in the great oceans of the world.

Derek Lundy, a self-confessed seeker after calmer waters when sailing himself, has gathered together a definitive account of the 1996 Vendée Globe, a singlehanded, non-stop round the world race which burst on to television screens everywhere with dramatic pictures of the Australian Navy and Air Force combining to contrive the double rescue of Britain's Tony Bullimore and Frenchman Thierry Dubois from their upturned yachts deep in the icy southern ocean.

And he recounts the way in which another Briton, Pete Goss, turned back in the teeth of a hurricane to pluck from a drifting life raft another Frenchman, Raphael Dinelli.

These are well-documented, but Lundy goes further. He shepherds the reader through the history of singlehanded sailing, explains the way of the sea, considers the design of these strange racing craft, and introduces each of the principal characters on this most dangerous and lonely of racing stages. While his descriptions of mountainous waves and howling winds are coldly respectful, his obvious affection for the men and women who risk their lives in what is an obsessive sport produces a series of warm biographies which are both informative and reassuring. Non-fiction it may be, but it contains all the tension of a thriller.

Not that that is enough to fire the kind of madness that says, "I want to do that, too." Not even Mr Lundy claims that.

STUART ALEXANDER

TOP TEN BOOKS

- 1 Hillsborough - The Truth Phil Scratton (Mainstream, paperback, £9.99)
- 2 Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1999, edited by Matthew Engel (John Wisden, hardback, £28.00)
- 3 Longest Cricket Innings 1999, edited by Bill Frindall (Headline, paperback, £4.99)
- 4 Almanacco Illustrato Del Calcio '99 edited by Arrigo Beltrami (Parini, Italy, hardback, £16.99)
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- 8 Premiership Rugby League Yearbook 1999 Raymond Fletcher (Headline, paperback, £17.99)
- 9 Daily Telegraph Cricket World Cup 1999 Charles Randall (Carlton, paperback, £6.99)
- 10 Football Memories Brian Glanville (Virgin, hardback, £16.99)

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Westwood changes style with a major breakthrough in mind

The Briton with a fresh approach to the 1999 Masters has cast off doubts about his chances to win the title. By Andy Farrell

EVERY WEEK on the golf tours, the world's best players are offered a free courtesy car, as much food in the locker-room as they wish to consume without messing up the fitness regime, courses often set up to offer the option for attacking, dramatic performances, extensive television coverage, please their sponsors and huge financial rewards with cheques bearing six or even seven-figure sums. For convenience, the records are kept on computer database for swift revision. Only four weeks of the year, however, do the history books get rewritten.

For all the marketing and hype of the past three months, the first golf of 1999 that actually matters – the first major championship – starts on Thursday with the 63rd playing of the Masters Tournament at Augusta National.

What is a major? In 1930, Bobby Jones, the founder of both the Masters and the club that hosts the championship, won both Opens and Amateur titles in America and Britain, the so-called Impregnable Quadrilateral. When professional golf had taken hold in the 1960s, it was Arnold Palmer who first talked about winning the Grand Slam of majors: the Masters, the US and British Opens and the USPGA.

The recent Players' Championship was a mighty tournament, won impressively by David Duval. It could be described as a combination of all four majors: it had the hard and fast greens of the Masters, the five-inch rough of the US Open, breezes straight from the British Open and the strength of field usually only achieved by the USPGA. And yet the event will always have to bear Sandy Lyle's put-down when he won the Players' in 1987 and was asked how it differed from the Open: "About 115 years of history," he replied.

Duval and Lee Westwood have become the dominant winners of tour golf. In the past 18 months, both have won 10 times. Westwood has done so on five tours and four continents, while Duval has captured all the main titles on the US tour: the season-opening Tournament of Champions, the World Series, for winners from all around the globe, the season-ending Tour Championship, and now the Players'.

What both now crave is a major title. Duval has played in 17 majors, missed three cuts and had two top-10 finishes. Just once has he been in contention, leading by one with three to play at last year's Masters before Mark O'Meara buried three of the last four holes to win his first major at the age of 41. Westwood has played in 10 majors, missed two cuts and also had two top-10 finishes.

This will only be the third season in which 25-year-old from Worksop has been eligible for all four majors. "I think that's why I haven't done so well in the majors," he said, "because I haven't had the experience of them." There is another factor: "I've probably taken the wrong attitude into them. I didn't see myself as a serious contender for them. I went in with the attitude that a top-10 finish would be good."

"Even last year, when I was going into them as the bookie's favourite, in my own mind I was only going into them to play well and see how high I could get, instead of seeing if I could win, like I do at other tournaments. It's just a mental attitude. I probably gave others too much respect, really. Now, I feel I am ready to compete."

Many of Westwood's finest displays have been achieved by battling



Lee Westwood: 'I want to play well in the majors, because that's the way great players are measured' Peter Andrews/Reuters

through difficult conditions, working his way up the leaderboard by playing par golf while others are going backwards. That was the case at the US Open last year, where he achieved his best finish of seventh in a major, and at the Players' Championship in the past two years.

Often he has had to scramble back from a poor start. In all the eight majors over the past two years, Westwood has been over par in the first round. His best fightback came on his debut at Augusta two

years ago, when after an opening 77, he shot a 70 on the last day in the company of Jack Nicklaus to earn a top-24 finish and a return trip.

Last year he fell to 44th, having had a hectic week. The attention was on him for the first time in the States as he had just won the New Orleans Classic. He would also win the Loch Lomond Invitational just before the Open and finished well down the pack at Royal Birkdale.

Preparation for a major is key and it is no coincidence that Nicklaus and

Nick Faldo have got it right more often than not. This year Westwood is adopting a more low-profile build up. After practising at Sawgrass last Monday, he met up with his new wife Laure in the Bahamas. On the agenda were a couple of rounds of golf but otherwise switching off.

Yesterday, he arrived in Augusta but will play no more than a couple of practice rounds. "In the past I have overdone the practice before a major, working far harder than at a regular tournament," he said.

All Westwood's arrangements are decided by his manager, Andrew "Chubby" Chandler, who described himself as the "chairman of the board". Input on the "board" comes from the player himself, his coach, Pete Cowen, and his father, a retired maths teacher.

It was decided Cowen, who also works Chandler's other clients such as Darren Clarke, Andrew Coltart and David Howell, should give more instruction at home and not travel to so many tournaments. The idea

LEE WESTWOOD AND DAVID DUVAL: TWO SUCCESS STORIES



In the past 18 months, Lee Westwood (left) and David Duval have been the dominant winners in golf with a combined tally of 20 victories. In their careers, Duval has won 10 times in America, while Westwood has 13 victories on five tours around the world.

August 1996
Westwood: Scandinavian Masters November 1996
Westwood: Taiheyo Masters (Japan) February 1997
Westwood: Malaysian Open October 1997
Duval: Michelob Championship Disney/Oldsmobile Classic November 1997
Duval: US Tour Championship Westwood: Volvo Masters (Sp.) Taiheyo Masters, Australian Open February 1998
Duval: Tucson Open April 1998
Westwood: Freepoint McDermott Classic (US)

May 1998
Duval: Houston Open June 1998
Westwood: Deutsche Bank Open English Open July 1998
Westwood: Loch Lomond Invitational August 1998
Duval: World Series October 1998
Westwood: Belgacom Open Duval: Michelob Championship November 1998
Westwood: Taiheyo Masters Dunlop Phoenix Tournament (Japan)

January 1999
Duval: Mercedes Championship, Bob Hope Classic

March 1999
Duval: The Players' Championship

was to reduce the number of technical ideas circulating in the players' minds during an event. But when Westwood was struggling prior to the Players' Championship, Butch Harmon, Tiger Woods' coach, was prevailed upon to help, and it seemed to work.

One aspect Westwood has been persuaded to drop is his attempts to draw the ball as folklore demands at Augusta. But Nicklaus, Ben Hogan, Faldo, Fred Couples and Woods are all Masters champions who fade the ball. "The perception of Augusta as a hooker's paradise is wrong," said Johnny Miller, the former US and British Open champion.

"A slight hook with the tee shot may be a plus but it isn't as big a factor as it used to be because of the distance these guys hit the ball. A monster fade that goes 300 yards won't hurt you and is even an advantage on clutch holes like 18."

"The real keys to playing well at Augusta are the approach shots to those firm, tricky greens. You need to hit the ball high so it lands like a sack of sand. A high fade works much better than a draw."

Duval, who as the new world No 1, enters the Masters as a surprise favourite over Woods, also hits the ball left-to-right. Westwood is glad to be away from the hype. But after describing the Open last year as "just another tournament" and entering the USPGA having barely touched a club for two weeks, Westwood has re-evaluated the significance of the majors.

"I want to play well in the majors, because when I sit down in 40 years' time, that is the way great players are measured. People talk of Faldo and you only hear of his six majors. Maybe, I could win them all. It's possible; I think I've got the kind of game that's right for all of them. I would say the US Open particularly suits me and, certainly the British Open is the one I'd like to win most, but I have the game to win all of them."

THE WEEK AHEAD: MAIN EVENTS

TOMORROW

Football: Big night at home and abroad with the first legs of the UEFA Cup semi-finals. A Tottenham Hotspur match against Atletico Madrid entertain Parma while Italy's other representative, Bologna, visit Marseilles. Don't rule out an all-Italian final. Title-chasing Arsenal have a chance to make ground on Manchester United when they play host to the last-placed team, the last Dosting of the shark-infested end of the table. In the Midlands, Leicester City play Aston Villa in a match of the might-haves. (Night have won the Worthington Cup; might have sustained a challenge for the title).

WEDNESDAY

Football: European Cup semi-finals. It doesn't get any better than this with Manchester facing old enemies Juventus and Bayern Munich. United overcame their bogey of never having beaten an Italian club over two legs in the last round and should now have the confidence to go for a convincing win against a Juventus team which does not look as formidable as

Internazionale. Alex Ferguson will never have a better chance of emulating Sir Matt Busby's of

success by defeating the French

team, should they do so.

THURSDAY

Football: The year's first major tournament, the US Masters, gets off an August 1999 start with Americans David Duval and Tiger Woods among the favourites. The British challenge is headed by Lee Westwood.

SATURDAY

Racing: The Grand National at Aintree. The greatest racing spectacle in the world even though the authorities have succumbed to pressure and made the fences too soft in recent years. This year's field looks set to be the best since 1993. Newcastle United take on Tottenham in the other end. The long-suffering Toon Army certainly deserve a win, a better performance than the one they dished up in last year's final.

Rugby Union: The Five Nations resumes in Paris where France play Scotland at the Stade de France. The Scots have surpassed all expectations

TODAY

Football: The FA Cup semi-finals. Arsenal will be hoping that Manchester United's midweek exertions against Juventus will have taken their toll. Newcastle United take on Tottenham in the other end. The long-suffering Toon Army certainly deserve a win, a better performance than the one they dished up in last year's final.

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All Black pedigree prevails

IT WAS a feat in itself that Wales should defy the seedings to reach the final of this 31st FIRA Junior World Championships. But when it came to the crunch it was New Zealand who displayed the pedigree necessary to carry off the title.

While it was their first venture into the under-19 event, they played like seasoned campaigners in brushing Wales aside in front of more than 12,000 people at Stratford Park. They won by four tries, a penalty and a conversion to nil and could have improved that margin had Wales not shown the spirit that saw them beat England, Argentina and South Africa on the way to the final.

The recent improvement in Welsh rugby has come at senior level since the arrival of the new coach Graham Henry. But, ironically, it was one of former coach Kevin Bowring's right-hand men who has been responsible for the success of this Wales side.

John Bevan, the former Wales and Lions wing, has been in charge over the past 10 days and he can be proud of what this side has achieved, despite failing at the final hurdle.

New Zealand were simply too streetwise and clinical in their execution of the possession they earned at forward. And when it came to scoring tries and turning that possession into points they were well accomplished too. It took them just 10 minutes to expose a stretched Welsh defence, Gerard Fasauvalu escaping the cover to add to the brace of tries he scored in the semi-final victory over Ireland.

RUGBY UNION

By ROB COLE
at Stratford Park

Wales Under-19 0
New Zealand Under-19 25

Wales were hindered by the conditions and though they tried to take the game wide, the slippery ball prevented them from making any headway. A mistake in midfield from full-back Rhys Williams enabled New Zealand to claim possession and Fasauvalu was away and celebrating his second try.

It was not until nine minutes into the second half that New Zealand increased that advantage, but when right-wing Junior Muliaina won the race for the line, the junior All Blacks were comfortably in front and on their way to the trophy.

Their fourth and final try came from flanker Richard McGaw after concerted work from his pack and a conversion of that score and a penalty from stand-off Keli Flutey completed the scoring on a disappointing afternoon for the Welsh.

This may have been the first time New Zealand had entered the competition, but they will be back next year and on the evidence of this will take some convincing.

Mark Tait, Wales' captain, J. Mullins, G. McGaw, C. Flutey, P. Fazakerley, R. Williams (D Peat, 45), K. James, R. Thompson, M. Price, R. Johnson, S. Sweeney, R. Williams, R. Williams, R. Williams, R. Williams, G. Woods (R. Mills, 67), D. Adams (C. Bowring, 45), J. Jones (capi), J. Baker (A. Clark, 60), T. Morris (M. Owen, M. Griffiths, 55), G. Williams (R. Mills, 67), G. Fasauvalu (T. Smith, 67), R. Flutey (J. Mahoney, 70); D. Gibson, C. Jones, G. Williams, R. Williams, R. Morris (J. Jones, 67), B. Morris (R. Morris, 67), D. Quaife, S. Bates (R. Finch, 70), R. McGaw, J. Collins (R. Wallace, 43), Referees: S. Lander (RFU).



Japan's Tanaka Masami earns her third gold medal of the week by winning the 100m breaststroke final in Hong Kong yesterday

Bobby Yip/Reuters

Foster earns a second gold

MARK FOSTER struck gold for Britain in the men's 50 metres butterfly on the final day of the World Short Course Championships here. Foster won yesterday in 23.61 seconds, ahead of China's Zhang Qiang in 23.87 and Joris Keizer of the Netherlands in 23.96. The Brit had clocked 24.02 to finish third in his semi-final, behind Keizer and Sweden's Dan Linstrom. He had also won the 50m freestyle gold.

Earlier, James Hickman and Helen Don-Duncan had won silver medals for Britain. Hickman clocked 1min 56.51sec in the 200m medley final, behind Australia's Matthew Dunn, who won in 1:55.81. Hickman led until the breaststroke leg of the medley but slowed in the latter stages of the race, enabling Dunn to take gold.

Don-Duncan took the silver in the 200m backstroke in a time of 2:06.18 to Mai Nakamura of Japan winning in 2:04.49 to add to her 100m backstroke gold.

Of the remaining Britons featuring in the finals, Karen Pickering finished fifth in the women's 200m freestyle in 1:57.95 behind Martina Moravcova. Sue Rolph finished last in the women's 200m medley final in 2:16.32, Slovakia's Martina Moravcova winning in 2:08.55, while in the men's 100m backstroke, British pair Neil Willey and Martin Harris finished

SWIMMING

By DERRICK WHYTE
in Hong Kong

sixth and eighth respectively in 53.53 and 54.57.

Australia and Japan dominated the four-day championships, chalking up another world record apiece on the last day. The Australian men's 4x100m medley relay team set a pounding pace and fended off a fierce late challenge from Sweden to clock a world record of 3:29.88. They broke Australia's own world record of 3:30.66 set in April 1997.

Australia had a commanding nine gold medals, also nailing down 11 silvers and seven bronzes as well as three of eight world records. The Australian record in the final event came just after the Japanese women's team had set a world record in the 4x100m medley relay with 3:57.62, beating the previous best of 3:57.73 set by

China in December 1993.

Japan brought only five swimmers but boasted second place in the medals table with one gold, two silver and one bronze.

Yesterday's world records capped a day of fierce competition in individual events as the swimmers moved into top gear for next year's Olympics.

Kucera kills off holders Sweden

TENNIS

By KIERAN DALEY

KAROL KUCERA led Slovakia to a surprise victory over the reigning champions Sweden in their Davis Cup world group first round tie with a four-set victory over Thomas Enqvist yesterday.

The Slovak No 1, playing his third match of the weekend in Trollhattan, Sweden beat the top Sweden 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 to give the Slovaks an unbeatable 3-1 lead and hand the home nation their first Davis Cup defeat since the 1996 final. Sweden's Thomas Johansson closed out the tie with a 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Dominik Hrbaty in a meaningless rubber.

"I had my chances, but every time I did something good he would come up with something even better," Enqvist said after the defeat. The win was revenge for last year when Sweden knocked out the Slovaks on their home court in the first round on the way to winning their second consecutive title.

Gustavo Kuerten's 6-2, 6-4, 6-1 demolition of the Spanish No 1 Carlos Moya set Brazil on their way to a 3-2 first-round victory at Lleida in Spain. Kuerten, who had put his side in command of the tie with a match-winning role in Saturday's doubles, turned in another virtuoso display to give Brazil an unbeatable 3-1 lead.

The French No 1 Cedric Pioline beat Richard Krajicek to stay unbeaten in three matches as France sank the Netherlands in their world group tie in Nimes. Pioline, who spent nearly five hours on the court along with compatriot Guillaume Raoux on Saturday, tamed Krajicek the world No 4, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 to give France a 3-1 lead.

Barrera shows his world-class credentials

WITHIN THE opening three minutes of Paul Lloyd's challenge to the World Boxing Organisation super-bantamweight champion, Marco Antonio Barrera, at the Royal Albert Hall, the sombre-looking Mexican had drawn blood from Lloyd's nose and both eyebrows. Barrera knocked Lloyd down for good measure. Unsurprisingly, the Englishman did not come out for round two.

Still Barrera, the 25-year-old former law student from Mexico City, confirmed at the week-

end that he is one of the very best fighters in the world, and that his rehabilitation is complete after a traumatic five-month period two years ago.

Barrera was unbeaten in 43 fights when he fought against the talented Junior Jones in Tampa. Barrera was the natural opponent for Naseem Hamed, the WBO featherweight champ who watched from ringside. They acknowledged each other respectfully before the fight,

but by round three Hamed was asking: "Is he having a bad night or what?" Jones, whom Hamed had visited in his dressing-room, was debunking the myth of "The Next Great Mexican". And in round five the New Yorker proved his point.

The beaten fighter, then only 23, was bereft at the post-fight conference – no one in America wants to talk to a loser, let alone one who needs an interpreter. Hamed, his former meal ticket, could offer only veiled encouragement. "You're a great fighter, you'll come back," said the Prince. "But work on blocking those right hands." Barrera did come back, against Jones, and lost again, this time on points. But boxing is strange. By a controlled route, Barrera is WBO super-bantamweight champion again, unbeaten in his last five.

While the future is certain for Paul Lloyd, the same cannot be said for Marco Antonio Barrera.

BOXING

By Glyn LEACH

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ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE PLAY-OFF

SEKONDA CUP FINALS

SPORT

Monty's poor show is par for course

AS AN exercise in boosting the confidence of British golfers going into this week's US Masters, the final round of the BellSouth Classic was less than successful. Colin Montgomerie closed with a 76, making Europe's No1 a combined 19 over par for the last day of his four tournaments in the United States.

"I lost interest at the end," said Montgomerie, who bogeyed the last three holes. "Nothing was happening. I didn't have any confidence

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
in Duluth, Georgia

going into the weekend and I haven't got any leaving it. This was my 16th round in the States and the 16th time I've putted badly."

As for the Masters, a tournament at which Montgomerie has often struggled before finishing eighth last year, the Scot said: "I'm not worried about next week. It hasn't worked out in the

past and if it doesn't work out this time, it'll be no different. I am not going there with any expectations, I'm just going to play. It is just another tournament. I might do well, I might not."

Ian Woosnam was so frustrated with his putting that he handed over his putter to a nine-year-old boy in the gallery after his 75. "My short game is diabolical. It is driving me nuts," the Welshman said. "What is disappointing is that I am beginning to hit the ball better but I can't get the ball in the hole," he said.

David Duval, a week after a gruelling but ultimately successful campaign at The Players' Championship, was again in contention on the final day of the BellSouth. Duval, by his own admission, has not played his best at the TPC of Sugarloaf,

Woosnam will contemplate returning to the broom-handled version at Augusta, but more importantly will first get treatment for the back injury he suffered on Friday. "My back is sore more than anything else," he said.

Woosnam will contemplate returning to the broom-handled version at Augusta, but more importantly will first get treatment for the back injury he suffered on Friday. "My back is sore more than anything else," he said.

What are you going to start doing? Not play after you win a tournament? That won't work."

But Duval has taken the sensible precaution of not immediately going on to Augusta, a two-hour drive from Atlanta. Instead, he will rest and not play a practice round until Wednesday. He has already seen the changes to the course in two outings there last month.

The chance of victory in the BellSouth held more significance for some as it would

guarantee a trip to the Masters. Weir, who won the Qualifying School last year, and Rory Sabbatini, the youngest player on the US tour, were both in that category.

Sabbatini, who celebrated his 23rd birthday with a 65 on Friday to take a four-stroke advantage at the halfway point, only got into the tournament as an alternate and vowed to have fun. A 73 on Saturday left the South African tied for third with Duval and John Huston.

"When I started going down-hill, I looked like the Exxon Valdes," Sabbatini said. "Golf is a funny thing, a lot like love. It is not how you handle the good things but when you have adversities."

A pro for only six months, Sabbatini is sure where he is heading. "I am a little fish in a big pond," he said. "I am like the guy nipping at the line but keep getting thrown back. Each day I am growing. When I get to the right size, I will be ready."

Results, Digest, page 11

Ambrose defied by Miller's assault

CURTLY AMBROSE seized the initiative for the West Indies with three quick wickets on the second morning of the fourth Test yesterday before a withering counter-attack by the Australian No 10, Colin Miller, stopped him in his tracks.

Miller, a 35-year-old in his first Test of the series whose average in his six previous Tests was four, blasted 41 off 38 balls and dominated a stand of 53 with his captain Steve Waugh that allowed Australia to recover to a total of 303 before they were all out just before lunch.

Armed with a ball 10 overs old and with the support of his boisterous home crowd, Ambrose dismissed Ian Healy, Adam Dale and Stuart MacGill all to slip catches off tentative edges, for 21 runs within the first 50 minutes.

When Miller arrived, Australia had limped to 242 for 8 from their overnight 221 for 5 and Waugh, 59, was in danger of running out of partners before he could make any attempt at raising a reasonable total.

Miller's approach to the situation was forthright and immediate, paying particular attention to the bemused and tiring Ambrose.

He pulled the great fast bowler for four, then twice hoisted him over midwicket for sixes, the first clearing the stand and ending up alongside the wall of the adjoining prison, and leg-glanced him for another boundary.

Ambrose took his three wickets for nine runs from his first five overs. Once Miller got hold of him, his next three overs cost 32 and Brian Lara was forced to remove him to save him from the indignity of more punishment.

He turned to the more gentle offerings of Jimmy Adams' left-arm spin which did the trick in six balls. Miller cross-batted a catch to midwicket.

Acknowledging the sentiments of the 8,000 packed into the stands, Lara quickly recalled Ambrose for the chance to claim his fifth wicket of the innings. He duly obliged, finding Glenn McGrath's edge for a catch to the keeper.

Once more, Waugh found

CRICKET

BY TONY COZIER
in St John's, Antigua

Australia 303
West Indies 58-2

himself left high and dry, unbeaten on 72.

His strategy throughout the morning was as baffling as Lara's. Waugh made no attempt to shield his partners who were obliged to receive 104 balls, off which they scored 53, while he had only 40, adding a mere 20 to his overnight 53.

For his part, Lara allowed Miller to upset his game plan immediately. As soon as the tailender scooped Ambrose over mid-on for two, his first scoring shot, Lara started to scatter his fielders around the outfield, easing the pressure. Ambrose did not help the situation by pounding the ball in short.

With an inexperienced attack backing him up, McGrath, with 226 wickets in his 48 Tests, would have to shoulder the main responsibility and he should have had an early wicket. Sherwin Campbell had scored only a single when he edged a loose drive to third slip where Michael Slater put down a straightforward, two-handed catch.

Australia won 100; second day of five.

AUSTRALIA - First Innings

M J Slater c Joseph b Perry 33
G S Blewett c Jacobs b Collymore 32
D Langer run out 51
M E Bevan c Adams b Walsh 1
*S R Waugh not out 72
R T Ponting b/w b Ambrose 21
A H Healy c Hooper b Ambrose 5
A P Dale c Hooper b Ambrose 10
C G McGrath c Joseph b Adams 43
G D McGrath c Jacobs b Ambrose 5
Extras (10) 24
Total (For 2, 27 overs) 303
Fall: 1-60, 2-75, 3-96, 4-139, 5-211,
6-226, 7-232, 8-242, 9-295.

Bowling: Ambrose 25.5-6-94-5 (mb6).

McGrath 10-2-67-5 (mb6), 10-2-67-5 (mb6).

Collymore 10-2-67-5 (mb6), 10-2-67-5 (mb6).

Adams 10-2-67-5 (mb6), 10-2-67-5 (mb6).

Wicket-keeper: D L Orchard (SA) and S A Bucknor (WI).

WEST INDIES - First Innings

S L Campbell c M E Whugh b Miller 8
A P Dale c Hooper b Miller 7
R E Joseph not out 31
*B R Lara not out 72
Extras (10) 33
Total (For 2, 27 overs) 58

To bat: C L Hooper, J C Adams, M D Jacobs, N O Perry, C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh, C D Collymore

Wicket-keeper: D L Orchard (SA) and S A Bucknor (WI).



Steve Waugh, the Australia captain, jumps to avoid a bouncer at St John's yesterday

David Gray/Reuters

Edwards to miss Wembley

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

have had morale-boosting victories over their traditional rivals - the Bulls over Leeds and Saints at Wigan - in the first part of the holiday programme, but Bradford have had an extra day to recover.

The other perfect record, surprisingly perhaps, belongs to Warrington, who host Gateshead, themselves encouraged by their first competition points against Wakefield on Good Friday.

Wigan go to Wakefield with two more players out of action.

Danny Moore and Mark Reber's injuries in the defeat by St Helens force their coach, John Monie, to reshuffle what look like suspiciously limited resources, with Lee Gilmour at centre and Jason Robinson back in his old schoolboy position of scrum-half.

Dwayne West should get his first start on the wing, despite an uncomfortable debut against St Helens, and Denis Bett makes his first appearance of the season.

The televised game at noon sees Sheffield try to maintain the momentum from their first victory against Huddersfield at Hull, one of three teams without a win so far.

The broader question is how clubs will cope with games on either side of the weekend and whether the high standard of rugby in the early stages of the season can be sustained.

Taking the Cup semi-finals into account, there can rarely have been a better week of big games than the one just ended.

The quality of rugby has shown what it is that Super League could put at jeopardy by trying to overload the number of fixtures.

TOMORROW

Comprehensive coverage of a major day of sporting action

Football: Reports from all the leading matches, including two crucial games at the bottom of the Premiership, Coventry v Southampton and Everton v Sheffield Wednesday

Rugby League: Dave Hadfield reports on the Challenge Cup final rehearsal between Leeds and the London Broncos

Cricket: Tony Cozier reports from Antigua as the West Indies take on Australia

Tennis: John Roberts on the aftermath of Britain's memorable Davis Cup tie against the United States

Racing: Can Richard Dunwoody break Peter Scudamore's all-time record of National Hunt victories?

ACTION REPLAY

Magnificent Mottram keeps British hopes alive

FRIDAY
8
DECEMBER
1978

The last time Great Britain met the USA in the Davis Cup final was December, 1978 when young John McEnroe made his debut for the home team who were hot favourites. But one Briton had other ideas on the first day. This is how the Daily Express reported it.

BUSTER MOTTRAM magnificently kept British hopes alive against the US yesterday with a thrilling back-to-the-wall victory over Brian Gottfried by 4-6, 2-6, 10-8, 6-4, 6-3.

The tall Briton No 1 won a four-and-a-quarter-hour marathon and Britain finished the first day of this world cup of tennis - their final for 41 days - dead level.

John Lloyd, the British No 2, had gone down 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 to John McEnroe in the opening match. But Buster, playing at his meanest and most magnificent, had them stamping and

waving their Union Jacks again as he started defiance at the Americans. Mottram looked down and out after two sets. But he produced some of the gutsiest tennis he has ever shown in international contests to turn the match upside down and claim a superb triumph.

Few men have been so completely beaten as 24-year-old Lloyd was in the opening match. McEnroe hardly put a foot or a ball wrong and there was little Lloyd could do to slow

him down - let alone stop him. The match lasted just 100 minutes - every one of them torture for Lloyd.

Lloyd played under the handicap of a grazed finger which leaked blood onto his racket grip. "But that was no excuse. I just wish it was," he said later. "McEnroe was just too hot. Nobody has made me look such an idiot in my life before. He was two classes above me. I needed God on my side to have a chance. He attacked every one of my weaknesses. I didn't think he could keep the pressure on like that."

McEnroe's left-handed serve is one of the most difficult in the world to handle and Lloyd admitted: "I didn't have a clue where the ball was going." It was a fair summing up. McEnroe started with two aces and finished with another. That's confidence, and from a kid playing his first Davis Cup singles match, it was a staggering maturity performance.

Mottram too, showed a tremendous maturity after losing the first two sets. He never gave up. He was in his best mood, contesting decisions he thought were wrong

and refusing to be ruffled.

Mottram was Britain's only winner in the final which the US eventually won 4-1.



MSI

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY

It came from outer space

If men are from Mars
and women from
Venus, which part of
the cosmos does
multimillion-selling
author John Gray
inhabit? And who
tidies his cave?

John Gray PhD (via a correspondence course) is the author of *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus (A Practical Guide for Improving Communication and Getting What You Want in Your Relationships)*, which was first published in 1993 and has since sold 13 million copies in 40 languages – 13 million! 40 languages! – and is jam-packed with pithy little sayings which sound like wholly profound aphorisms until you realise that maybe they aren't:

"Generally speaking, when a woman offers a man unsolicited advice, she has no idea how unloving she sounds to him." (p 21)

Anyway, since then he's produced endless variations on the theme: *Mars and Venus, 365 Ways to Keep Your Love Alive*; *Mars and Venus Forever Together*; *Mars and Venus in Love*; *Mars and Venus on a Date*; *Mars and Venus Starting Over*; *Mars and Venus in the Bedroom*. Golly, where is it all going to end? *Mars and Venus Test-Drive the Fiat Punto*? *Mars and Venus Wonder Why There Aren't Orange Ones in Bags of Revels Anymore*? *Mars and Venus: The Movie*? "Actually," replies Mr Gray, "Meg Ryan is real interested in that."

"No!"

"Yup," he replies happily.

"Is she a typical Venusian, then?"

"She's a great Venusian," he whoops.

"But who would make a great Martian? George Clooney?"

"Sure. Or Tom Hanks."

"But not John Inman?"

"Gee, I love that show. We get it on PBS in the States. It's so funny."

"Generally speaking," I say, "the thing about *Are You Being Served?* is that all the staff take their tea breaks at the same time, thus making Grace Brothers a shoplifter's paradise during certain periods of the day."

"Hey, you're right!" John cries. "Gee, I never thought of that."

Sometimes, what I say can sound pretty stupid, until you realise it is actually wholly profound.

Anyway, I meet Mr Gray, a Texan who now lives in California in a big house with "seven gardens and a beeyootiful swimming pool", at a London hotel. He is here to promote his latest book – *How To Get What You Want and Want What You Have* (Mars and Venus having yet to get back from test-driving the Fiat Punto, presumably). It's a lot of waffle about "food and "love tanks" and fulfilling your higher potential; yet such is John Gray's following, it is already number four in the bestseller lists here, behind the original *Mars, Venus* book, which still sits at number three. I say the latest book doesn't do a lot for me, frankly. He shrugs, as he can mighty afford to, and says: "All my books are not for everybody. I feel like I'm a big department store with lots of different outfits. If it fits you, great. If it doesn't, then it's not for you." Aside from pithy aphorisms he is, it would seem, a bit of a one for metaphors, too. John, can't some people's relationship problems go deeper than mere communication difficulties? "If you're trained to be a pilot, you can fly a jet," he says. "Same thing with relationships. You can be trained to have a successful one."

This guy is truly a phenomenon, although, physically, he doesn't especially strike you as one. He is actually quite small and round, and looks rather like a Babbel cheese with a wig on. Certainly, he is remarkably young-looking for 49. He says this is because he used to be a monk, still meditates a lot and "lives without sex for nine years – although I've made up for it since, ha! ha!" He is wearing a lovely, navy Italian suit. "A gift from my American publishers," he explains. His American publishers, HarperCollins, also annually send him and his family to Hawaii and once, on a book tour, "forgot to bring my coat, so they met me at the hotel in New York with a beeyootiful cashmere one I still wear." He adds: "When you're on *The New York Times* bestseller list for four years solid, you sure do get treated like a king!" I nod knowingly.

Anyway, what is all the fuss about? Why is *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* now the biggest-selling self-help book ever? How come John Gray can sell out Carnegie Hall? How come, on top of all the books, there are also audio tapes and CD-roms and board games and T-shirts that say "My wife's from Venus" (or "My husband's from Mars")? Across America there are even licensed therapists who have received accreditation from one of Gray's training courses and can consequently advertise their services as "Mars-Venus friendly". How come friends of mine who I've previously thought of as sane have said things to me like "You haven't read the book? You must!" and "Whatever you do, don't bother a man when he's in his cave!" So I do go off and read it. And, yes, I am brilliantly



impressed. It's a magnificent book. It's a total masterpiece of a book. The thesis? That men and women are fundamentally different creatures, and once this is appreciated and behaviour tailored accordingly, we are all destined to live happily ever after.

The differences? Men are goal-oriented. Men value "power, competency, efficiency and achievement". Men don't want to talk about problems. Men want to seek solutions. When men seek solutions, they need to go into their caves (ie, sit in front of the telly watching football). Never disturb a man in his cave. Never give a man unsolicited advice because it undermines his feelings of competence and (heaven forbid) he might take it as a criticism. Never shout: "ALL I ASKED YOU TO DO WAS BRING A PINT OF MILK HOME, YOU FAT LAZY LUMMOX!" I imagine that, mostly, women buy this book. And I would imagine, too, that it does improve their relationships because, instead of allowing men to neetle them, they just allow them to get on with being stupid and idle and sulking a lot. This is why, possibly, it's all so brilliant, in its way.

And women? Women value "love, beauty, communication and relationships". Women often just want to talk about their problems, without necessarily seeking solutions. Men should listen more. Men should resist offering solutions. When a woman cries "I've no time for me!" he shouldn't say "Pack in the job". He should say: "Hm, sounds like you've had a hard day." And when he forgets the milk she, in turn, should say: "OK, honey. Maybe you could remember tomorrow?" And if he forgets tomorrow, she should say: "That's OK. Maybe you could remember tomorrow?" "And you just keep on at it like that until he eventually gets it," says John (Still, it might be wise never to ask a man to bring you back a kidney, should you ever be in need of an urgent transplant).

I don't doubt, actually, that men and women are different. But this is just rehashing ancient, sexist clichés, isn't it? Although, that said, John's superbly

Stepfordy-sounding wife seems to fit the stereotype rather well. "When Bonnie sees I'm in my cave," says John, "she goes out to shop." Bonnie, apparently, will often thank John for dinner, even after she's cooked it. "She treats me as if I'd provided the meal, because I work hard and she is looking for a way to acknowledge my part in things." For his part, he doesn't have to be asked 769 times to change light bulbs or take out the rubbish. "In the Martian world, what's valued are things that make money. Changing bulbs and emptying trash don't make money... that's how a man's mind works. But if you ask him to do these things as if you were asking him for the first time, then give him a little reward by saying



BY DEBORAH ROSS
FEATURE WRITER
OF THE YEAR

"Oh, thanks so much," he'll soon jump to it as soon as you ask. Bonnie only has to say "trash" now, and I'll stop anything to take it out."

But can't women be Martians? Can't they value "achievement, power and goals"? Wouldn't say Margaret Thatcher was a Martian? "Of course, women can be Martians. But when a woman comes to me who appears to be from Mars, I say: 'OK, you've developed your Martian side, but let's look at why, somewhere in your past, someone has ridiculed, minimised or put down your Venusian

feelings.'" So a woman who wants to achieve isn't normal! "Somewhere along the line I would see there was a wound that needed healing." Would you say you were pro-women, John? "I'm really into women having careers and everything!"

So, who exactly is John Gray? He grew up in Austin, Texas, in a family of seven children. The family sounds brilliantly dysfunctional. His younger brother, Jimmy, was a manic depressive who eventually shot himself in the head. His father was an oil executive who "wasn't a great communicator. He loved us, but he'd been a sergeant in the army, and we would have to stand to attention before going to church on Sunday morning at a certain time and be in our suits. He actually had a loudspeaker." God, how very *The Sound of Music*, I say. "Yes. When we went to see the movie, and Von Trapp did that whistle, the reaction from the audience was: 'Oh, how horrible.' But my reaction was: 'This is perfectly normal to me.' How did your mother cope? 'Well, my father always travelled a lot. He probably figured he'd do less damage that way.'

Years later, when John had just married Bonnie and started out on the self-help lark, his father died in the trunk of a car. He'd picked up a couple of hitchhikers in Texas, who ended up stealing his money and locking him in his trunk. He died of heat asphyxiation. John, who was honeymooning in Canada, flew back and insisted on visiting the sight of his father's death. He even climbed inside the trunk to get a more vivid sense of his father's last moments. While inside, he noticed his father had prised off one of the tail lights, presumably for air. He stuck a hand out. At this point, one of his brothers shouted: "Try to reach round and press the button to open the trunk." John opened the trunk. And this taught him a lesson: "There are so many people in the world who are locked in trunks, and need someone on the outside to tell them how to get out."

This man even thinks in aphorisms that sound wholly profound, until you realise they aren't.

After graduating from high school, he bummed about a bit, experimenting with dope and LSD, until getting into Transcendental Meditation – "a great way of getting high without wrecking your body". He went on to spend most of his twenties as a devotee of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, rising through the TM ranks to eventually become his personal assistant, remaining celibate for those nine years, and living with him at his headquarters in Switzerland. Then, once he'd decided he'd "gone as far as you can go" with TM, he retired from monkhood and settled in California to study psychology via correspondence and to start touring Making Love Workshops. This went well until a friend said: "John, you're great at what you do, but you treat women and men as if they're the same, and they're not."

"I had resistance to that, because I'm real pro-women, but then I started looking at the research and found a lot that had started out trying to prove men and women were the same but had ended up proving they were different. And I saw how the differences created unnecessary tensions and frustrations. Then one day I saw the movie *ET*. And I thought, that's it! Men and women are from different planets! And I got goosebumps when I thought of it, so I knew right then it was a great discovery."

Can we truly learn something from all this? I don't know. I go home. It's dark by the time I get there, not because it's late, but because the bulb's gone in the hall, and has been gone for some time. My partner? He is in his cave, eating Kettle Chips and watching *Star Trek*. I say: "It's OK you didn't do the light bulb today. Or yesterday. Or last year. Maybe tomorrow?" He says: "Are you drunk?" I soon was.

"When men and women are able to respect and accept their differences, then love will blossom." (p 14)

How To Get What You Want and Want What You Have (Vermilion, £9.99); *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* (Thorsons, £9.99)

THE INDEPENDENT

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We must find the stomach for years of war over Kosovo

WILL IT be over by Christmas? Since Vietnam, we in the West have grown used to short wars. The Falklands war in 1982 was over in two-and-a-half months. The ground war in the Gulf in 1991 famously lasted just 100 hours after a six-week aerial bombardment. However, Kosovo is different. The Prime Minister's statements over the weekend that Nato's goal is to return the Kosovar Albanians to their homes, to "defeat Milosevic", and to "what it takes, for as long as it takes", were astonishingly direct. And when his spokesman suggests that the war may go on for four years, it is obvious that we are entering a potentially long haul.

Yet Britain and its Nato partners are fearfully unprepared for a long and bloody European war. Militarily, Nato has been gearing up for some time for air strikes. But if the Kosovar Albanians are to be returned to their homeland against the will of Serbian forces, troops will be needed on the ground. Tony Blair has not ruled out the use of ground troops (despite much reporting to the contrary), but neither has he started to build up the forces needed to fight a land war.

Mr Blair's strategy for forcing the Serbs to end the terror in Kosovo, outlined yesterday, is to "make Milosevic pay a higher and higher price, day by day, until he does so". But what if he does not? And how high can the price be if Nato air strikes continue to be careful to minimise civilian casualties? The threat of air strikes did not work. The intensification of the strikes, especially if they consist of the accurate targeting of empty interior ministry buildings, seems unlikely to be any more successful.

The public in the West is unprepared too, despite opinion polls showing increasing support for the use of ground troops. That is an understandable reaction to pictures of the lost souls in the Macedonian mists. The focus groups will say: "Something must be done." But if significant British casualties are to be sustained, the country will need to be motivated by something more durable than a tug at the heartstrings.

That is why the Prime Minister's words over the weekend were right and necessary, although his blazing moral certainty – "a battle between good and evil" – was jolting, even scary. It should have been made clearer to the people earlier that there never was any point getting into this business, if we were not prepared to see it through.

There is only one consistent, morally defensible position that is opposed to this war and that is what might be called the Alan Clark isolationist position, which is that the Kosovar Albanians should have been left to their fate, because the United Kingdom's national interest is not at stake. But that was not right in Bosnia and it is not right



'FAILURE OF IMAGINATION'

Good teachers deserve to be paid more

TEACHERS SHOULD be paid more. With so many of the profession trapped under a pay ceiling of about £23,000 a year, this is one of those truths universally acknowledged. Sadly, the National Union of Teachers ignores another universal truth – that quality in too much of the profession is unacceptably low. One of the reasons for putting up teachers' pay is to attract more able people. Most teachers, of course, are talented and do a good job in difficult conditions. But the suggestion by Chris Woodhead, the unpopular chief inspector of schools, that 15,000 teachers should be sacked, while tactless, was not unjustified.

The simplest solution, then, would be to sack 15,000 teachers and pay the rest more. Unfortunately, that would leave a serious shortage until recruitment picked up. So

the Government is trying a more gradual way – tying £1bn in pay rises over the next two years to performance. The NUT complains performance-related pay is "divisive". Well, any separation into good and better is divisive. Promotion is divisive. Life is divisive. At least David Blunkett's scheme will allow good teachers to earn up to £35,000 and stay where they are needed – in the classroom.

Beware the B word

AN INTERNAL BBC memo says the word "British" needs to be used with care once Scotland has its own parliament and Wales its assembly. Was the author a closet Unionist, a subversive humorist, or both? The implication is that the BBC should be known as the BC, just as our leading telecoms company should be T. But if it means the end of the inane fashion for prefacing conglomerates and quangos with the B word, this can only be a good thing.

The battle for public opinion may yet prove Nato's toughest test

HERE WAS a strange scene last Wednesday in the unlikely – and uncomfortably public – setting of Westminster's Atrium restaurant, in which George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence, was giving an off-the-record briefing on the war in Serbia to some heavy hitting members of the US Congress. Mr Robertson is a man of impressive calm, as the traumatic events of the last fortnight have proved. But even he was a little irritated to be asked by two of the visitors, a Republican and a Democrat, why Britain had not been more inclined to send ground troops to the Balkan theatre.

He did not let it show, contenting himself only with pointing out that he had thought that it was in Washington that resistance to the dispatch of ground troops was the strongest. There are over ten times as many British troops in Macedonia as there are Americans.

The exchange becomes all the more significant in the light of Tony Blair's dramatic promise on Saturday that he would not halt an action against Serbia until the refugees had been successfully returned to their homeland in Kosovo.

The wide – and almost certainly correct – inference from his remarks has been that the Prime Minister was preparing public opinion for the prospect of a much longer haul than it has so far been given to expect. But there was another, closely related, reason for his unscheduled broadcast.

The Nato allies are now bracing themselves for a second offer – whether you choose to put quotation

marks around the word is a matter of judgement – from Slobodan Milosevic designed to halt the bombing.

In the next few days there will emerge a formula – probably brokered by the Vatican, possibly with some help from the Russians – under which Mr Milosevic will pronounce himself contented with the amount of ethnic cleansing he has perpetrated, and suggest that he may be prepared to return to the negotiating table on the basis of the new – and gruesomely produced – redistribution of population in Serbia's Kosovo province.

It is probable that the moderate Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova, now effectively a Milosevic captive, will be suborned to support the proposal.

Part of what the Prime Minister was doing, therefore, was to prepare the public for the fact that such a proposal, if it is made, will be turned down flat. Believing as he does, that the television pictures of the forced exodus of ethnic Albanians, are what has helped to shore up Western public opinion in favour of the bombing and cement the alliance, neither he nor Clinton are about to countenance a solution which does not return them home.

The Nato leaders will say that all the offer shows is that the extraordinary precision of the Cruise missiles which hit the Ministry of Interior building but missed the hospital next door – over which the Nato command sweated long and hard because of the appalling dangers of a miss – has been effective. And that the war goes on.

Quite possibly for a long time. And this is where Mr Robertson's interesting exchange with the US legisla-



DONALD MACINTYRE
Another so-called peace offer from Slobodan Milosevic is thought to be on the way

tors come in. The problems of assembling a ground force sufficiently large to enter Serbian territory with even a hope of success have not suddenly disappeared. Of these problems, the strong resistance in Washington certainly remains one of the most formidable.

The others include the difficulties of reaching agreement among all the Nato allies to provide a force which could do it. When negotiations with Milosevic finally broke down, not even the 30,000 troops that would have been needed to enforce the peace envisaged at Rambouillet had been accounted for. That figure of 30,000 was much less than would be needed to go in if war was still being waged.

That, and the notorious physical difficulties of the path into Kosovo through Macedonia, all need to be

taken into account before the commitment of land forces.

The destruction of another bridge at Novi Sad in northern Yugoslavia, on the direct route from the Hungarian border to Belgrade must have made some Serbian generals wonder whether the allies were contemplating invasion from Hungary, now a Nato member. But that would mean an almost unthinkable dangerous land war on so far peaceful territory. And so on. Nevertheless, my sense is that, while ministers – after taking stock of the first fortnight – will not yet commit to large scale ground forces, they will not be so emphatic in ruling out the long-term possibility either.

One view, easily the most optimistic, is that, if and as the weather clears, much more precision bombing will begin to have its effect in Belgrade as well as in Kosovo. Some of the power elite, including the possibly doubting generals – warned daily by Mr Robertson via CNN – may revolt, fearing a summons to appear before the international court in The Hague if they blindly follow Milosevic's barbaric orders.

Many of those who know the Balkans well fear this may underestimate the patriotic bunker mentality in Belgrade. Moreover the regime in Montenegro, the one Western-friendly part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, is gravely at risk.

The other growing view is that bombing alone, even with improved weather, will not achieve its goal. Given the length of time it would take to assemble a ground force, that would mean more domestic problems than so far envisaged, and not

only the outstanding one of British military casualties. The economic costs of the war would spiral. And there remains the problem of refugees.

If the Macedonian government continues to refuse entry from Kosovo to those without hope of admission to a third country, then Britain and other European countries may have to welcome them. Ministers do not want this to happen, because refugees soon become quasi-economic migrants unwilling to return to a wrecked, if finally peaceful former Yugoslavia. Which is where the idea, floated by Robin Cook, for UN-protected refugee zones in the neighbouring countries comes in. But if that doesn't work you can hardly bomb to save the refugees and then let them die in camps, or worse, trying to reach the border.

So the choices ahead are tougher than they looked two weeks ago. Yet the resolve of the British Cabinet seems to be remarkably firm. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, and one of those who might have been thought to have doubts, has sensibly been brought into the informal *de facto* war cabinet that meets daily. Moreover the new international factor is the unexpected firmness of Germany.

But ministers throughout Nato will have to do even more to prepare public opinion for the consequences of not bringing Milosevic to his knees in the first few days of bombing. It looked at one point that Easter would be the moment that would determine whether the war would be lost or long. In London the view is that it has not been lost, but that it may be long.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Peace is possible, peace is a duty, peace is a prime responsibility of everyone."

Pope John Paul II at his Easter mass, which he dedicated to peace in the Balkans

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Where are the songs of spring? Ay, where are they?"

John Keats, English poet

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MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday newspapers reflect on the conflict in the Balkans

is the right thing to do, and the only way to win the war, then we must. Nato must stand firm.

In the end, if the good war does outweigh the harm it causes to innocent people,

then it is justified, however painful.

The Sunday Mirror

THE ONLY solution, both strategically and ethically, is to get the Kosovars back into Kosovo. That cannot be done

without using more force than bombing can provide. It requires troops on the ground in Kosovo.

The Sunday Telegraph

THE COMMITMENT of ground troops cannot be delayed much longer. Today, it is "not the present intention".

Tomorrow, or some time soon, it is going to become a very real prospect. (Andrew Rawnsley
The Observer)

Lionel Bart

IF HE had written only *Oliver!*, the composer Lionel Bart would have earned an honoured place in the history of British musicals, but he was far from a one-show wonder. His other work included shows such as *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* and *Maggie May*, plus many pop songs including "Living Doll" (Cliff Richard's first No 1 hit), Tommy Steele's "A Handful of Songs", Anthony Newley's "Do You Mind?" and Matt Monro's "From Russia With Love".

He epitomised the start of the Sixties in Britain, which he uniquely captured in song and spirit, and he was one of the few composers to deal uncompromisingly with the working classes, transposing their life styles and vernacular to the musical stage. "Nobody tries to be la-de-da or uppity, there's a cuppa tea for all," sings the Artful Dodger to Oliver, while *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be* remains a time capsule of a world in which folk talked of their "birds" and their "manner" and dreamed of being able to afford furniture that was "contemporary". It was like a musical *EastEnders*, but far more joyous and celebratory, without the unremitting angst suffered by the inhabitants of Albert Square.

Bart also epitomised the Sixties in a less happy way - like many who flourished in that era he was seduced by sudden success into a world of drink, drugs and hedonism, squandering his money and his youth. Bart was one of the 11 children of an East End tailor. He was born Lionel Begleiter in 1930, and he had no formal musical training. He displayed a flair for drawing, however, which brought him at the age of 16 a scholarship to the St Martin's School of Art in London. (His bus journey, which took him each day past St Bartholomew's Hospital, inspired him to adopt Bart as his professional surname.) He worked in a silk-screen printing works and commercial art studios before an attraction to the theatre brought him work at the left-wing Unity Theatre, where he worked as a set painter. He started writing songs in response to a sign asking for musical material for one of the theatre's productions. Unable to write music, he would tap out the melody with one finger and someone else would orchestrate it.

It was a time when popular music was undergoing a drastic transformation due to the influence of such stars as Elvis Presley and Bill Haley, and Bart was one of many musicians and singers (most of them Presley-influenced) who frequented the 2's coffee shop in Soho, where he met the rock singer Tommy Steele. With Michael Pratt and Steele, Bart wrote Steele's first hit, "Rock with the Caveman" (1957), and later that year Bart won three Ivor Novello Awards, presented by the Songwriters Guild for outstanding song of the year ("A Handful of Songs"), best novelty song ("Water, Water") and outstanding film score (*The Tommy Steele Story*).

Another habitus of the 2's was a cherubic youngster named Harry Webb, and when he made his first film, *Serious Charge* (with his new name Cliff Richard), it was Bart who provided the songs, including "Living Doll", which topped the Hit Parade for eight weeks. (Bart claimed that he wrote the song in six minutes on a Sunday morning.) The same year Bart wrote a complete musical, *Wally Pone* of Soho, based on Ben Jonson's *Volpone*, but could not get it produced, but Joan Littlewood, who had been a producer at the Unity and was now running the enterprising Theatre Workshop in Stratford, London, asked him to provide the music and lyrics for a new musical written by a former convict, Frank Norman. *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'Be*.

Oliver! was like a musical EastEnders, but more joyous and celebratory, without the unremitting angst of Albert Square

from rousing show-stoppers like "Consider Yourself" and "I'd Do Anything" to the character songs such as Fagin's "Pick a Pocket or Two" and "Reviewing the Situation", and Nancy's "It's a Fine Life" and the torchy ballad "As Long As He Needs Me". Bart later said that, when composing his songs, he always thought of Judy Garland singing them. It won Novello Awards for outstanding score of the year, outstanding song of the year and best-selling song (the last two both for "As Long As He Needs Me"). *Oliver!* ran for 2,618 performances in London, and was a hit on Broadway where it opened in 1963 and ran for 774 performances, winning Bart a Tony Award.

Bart was said to be earning £16 a minute from *Oliver!* in 1960 and his life style reflected his wealth. He entertained vigorously, his friends including Noel Coward, Brian Epstein, Judy Garland, Alma Cogan and Shirley Bassey, and he spent weekends in Mustique with Princess Margaret, who was later, according



Bart: 'I'm not a composer. I just make songs and sing them'

to Bart, to call him a "silly bugger" for mis-handling his finances. Bart himself would later place some of the blame on his upbringing. "My father gambled," he said, "and there were endless arguments about it. I hated money and had no respect for it. My attitude was to spend it as I got it."

Though there may be some truth in this, Bart's friends attest to his constantly altering the facts of his childhood and frequently taking liberties with the truth. When he was looking for a writer to help ghost his memoirs, several noted authors turned him down, one of them telling me bluntly, "He's such a liar!"

The American composer Richard Rodgers, who had not found a permanent lyricist partner since the death of Oscar Hammerstein, asked Bart to collaborate with him, but Bart refused and for his next show chose a subject close to his heart: the way East Enders coped with air-raids in World War II. *Blitz!* (Bart had a fondness for exclamation points in his titles) was a gargantuan production which never quite jelled

songs for an EP and it won the Novello Award as outstanding score of the year and the Critics' Poll as best new British musical.

Bart was by now experimenting with LSD and other drugs and was drinking heavily. By the late Seventies his drinking had brought on diabetes and by the time he managed to quit alcohol it had destroyed one-third of his liver. Much of his income was being dissipated, according to his friends, by his generosity to hangers-on and by the ease with which casual sex partners could rob him. "Though known in the profession to be gay, it was not until the Nineties that Bart described himself as 'out at last'." His career reached a low point in 1965 with his musical about Robin Hood which he backed with a fortune of his own money. *Twang!* was a short-lived disaster and to finance it Bart had rashly sold his rights to *Oliver!* He later estimated that relinquishing those rights lost him over a million pounds.

In 1968 Carol Reed's film version of *Oliver!* opened and was a huge success, winning several Oscars including Best Picture, plus nominations for Ron Moody (the original Fagin repeating his fine performance) and Jack Wild (as the Artful Dodger). Bart's score was kept virtually intact, and the soundtrack album was a best-seller. Columbia, the studio financing the film, had wanted an internationally known star (Peter Sellers) in the lead, but Reed and Bart fought to keep Moody. Their choice of Shirley Bassey to play Nancy was vetoed by the studio who felt that if Bill Sykes was shown killing a black girl it could offend some audiences.

Four years after *Twang!* a new show by Bart was produced. Based on the Fellini film *La Strada*, it was staged on Broadway where it ran for only one night, though Bart never gave up on it and was working on plans for a revival at the time of his death. He also wrote the score for a television version of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* starring Kirk Douglas (never shown in Britain) and an unproduced stage musical, *Quasimodo!* based on *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. In a 1998 interview with *The Independent*, Bart recalled that he sent some of the script for *Quasimodo!* to Noel Coward, who said, "Brilliant, dear boy, but were you on drugs when you wrote it? It seems a bit abstract here and there." I suppose it was," said Bart.

In 1972 Bart declared himself bankrupt - he had debts totaling £73,000. In 1975 he was banned for a year for driving under the influence of drink, and in 1983 banned again for two years. Regarding the changes in the style of musical theatre, he told the musical historian Mark Stein that he would never have written a through-sung musical because

in my case it would be slightly pretentious. I'm not a composer, I just make tunes and sing them, and I sing harmonies, and some of my chord progressions are not logical, but often they work. For *Oliver!* I thought in terms of people's words. The *Oliver!* theme was really the *Oliver!* wall, kind of of course. Fagin's music was like a Jewish mother clutching away. But I don't want to get high-Galutin' about it. Music is important, fair enough. But just to have some kind of drab tune fitted to even more drab dialogue seems rather pointless to me.

Though Bart's final years were unproductive (a 30-second commercial for the Abbey National Building Society was his most notable achievement of the last decade), and he could be exasperatingly demanding of his friends, he was equitable about his change in fortunes - he once had homes in London, New York, Malibu and Tangiers but had been living in a small flat in Acton, Cameron Mackintosh, who successfully revived *Oliver!* at the London Palladium in 1994 and gave him a percentage of the profits, said. Of all the people I know in this business who have had ups and downs, Lionel is the least bitter man I have ever come across. He regrets it but, considering that everyone else has made millions out of his creations, he's never been sour, never been vindictive.

Andrew Lloyd Webber said, "Lionel's genius has in my view never been fully recognised by the British establishment. The loss to British musical theatre caused by his untimely death is incalculable."

TOM VALLANCE

Lionel Begleiter (Lionel Bart), composer, lyricist and playwright, born London 1 August 1930; died London 3 April 1999.



Gardner: News at Ten



THE MONDAY REVIEW
The Independent 5 April 1999

Andrew Gardner

AS ONE of the two newscasters seen on *News at Ten*'s first night in 1967, Andrew Gardner helped to shape the programme that became a British institution for more than 30 years, until its demise last month.

His newscasting partner that night was Alastair Burnet although it was the irrepressible Reginald Bosanquet - of the harpice and precarious delivery - with whom viewers associated Gardner most. The pair had a rapport that Bosanquet put down to their diverse personalities and they gained a reputation for "bouncing off" one another. "Andrew always exercised restraint upon my natural ebullience, and I always had the capacity to make him laugh," wrote Bosanquet in his 1990 autobiography, *Let's Get Through Wednesday: my 25 years with ITN*.

During his own 18 years with Independent Television News, the 6ft 5in-tall Gardner was noted for his dependability and unflappable nature, praised by Bosanquet for being "always in control, always authoritative and the master of handling anything that went wrong".

Recalling his own difficulties in pronouncing some foreign place names, Bosanquet asserted: "Andrew Gardner has no such problem. His technique is to sail right into each conundrum, giving every appearance of being completely at fault with the word, and then it is so quickly on to the next topic that nobody has the time to ponder about whether or not he has got it right. But, damn him, he invariably has!"

Gardner and Bosanquet also innovated the technique of turning and talking to one another as the final credits rolled on *News at Ten*. TV Times magazine even ran a picture competition in which readers were asked to write in the balloons what they thought each was saying.

Presenting the news came to Gardner after gaining his reporting credentials in the hot-spot of Africa in the 1950s. Born in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, in 1932, and educated at Dunsden's School, Wiltshire, he became a radio journalist in the Central African Federation in 1957, covering Africa extensively and becoming one of the first reporters to witness the Congo during the 1960 massacres.

Returning to Britain in 1961, Gardner worked as a freelance reporter and scriptwriter for BBC radio and appeared in the BBC television programme *Table Talk* before joining *ITN* later that year on a freelance basis as a reporter and newscaster. Since its inception in 1955 at the start of British commercial television, *ITN* had led the way in television news, and, before the start of *News at Ten*, also broadcast current affairs programmes. This enabled Gardner to present *Roving Report* (1957-67) and *Dateline* (1961-67), as well as *Reporting '66* and *Reporting '67*. He also hosted the first transatlantic programme broadcast from America to Western Europe by the *Teletor 1* satellite, in 1962.

When *News at Ten* was launched on 3 July 1967 as Britain's first half-hour news programme, many ITV company bosses forecast disaster and scheduled it for 12 weeks. The programme's first broadcast, on a slow news day, meant that it failed to gain an immediate impact and Gardner admitted that it was "the worst possible night that any television journalist could ever imagine in their wildest nightmare".

He was considerate beyond the norm. Once on the journey to Thames Television when his driver stopped at the gents' on Greenwich Hill, Andrew got out to stretch his long legs. The driver returned, failed to notice his important passenger was a few yards up the hill, drove away and left him surrounded by a class of enthusiastic schoolchildren. He asked them where they were going and when they replied "The Cutty Sark" he immediately said, "Then I'll come with you", making their day.

He bridged the gap between celebrity and private individual so judiciously it was hard to imagine that his media position might trouble him at all. While he was devoted to doing his job well, he seemed happiest in retirement from television, buying antiques, planning home-improvements holidays and engagements with his burgeoning family.

Andrew Gardner, television newscaster and reporter; born Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire 25 September 1932; married Margaret Drain (two sons); died in flight en route to Madeira 2 April 1999.



Gardner: News at Ten

JESSE STONE heard the phrase "shake, rattle and roll" while shooting craps and decide to write a lascivious song around it. Sung by Big Joe Turner, "Shake, Rattle and Roll" topped the country's rhythm and blues charts in 1954. A version by Bill Haley and His Comets made the Top Ten in both the US and the UK, and it was later covered by Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, the Beatles, the Swinging Blue Jeans, Billy Swan, Jerry Lee Lewis, Fats Domino and Canned Heat.

Stone, the record-label owner Ahmet Ertegun, "did more to develop the rock 'n' roll sound than anybody else". That may be exaggeration as Stone worked for Ertegun's label Atlantic in the 1950s. His contribution is overlooked, largely because he wrote under a pseudonym (Charles Calhoun) in order to belong to both

American publishing organisations, Aascap and BMI.

Jesse Stone was born in Atchison, Kansas, in 1901 and began singing in his parents' minstrel show when only five years old. During the 1920s

he worked in Kansas City as a pianist and vocalist and made his first record, "Starvation Blues", in 1927. He had his own band, which included Coleman Hawkins, and then worked with Duke Ellington and Jimmie Lunceford's orchestras.

In the early 1940s, Jimmy Dorsey recorded his composition "Sorghum Switch", and Benny Goodman and Guy Lombardo "Idaho". In the wake of Louis Jordan, Stone recorded novelty blues records for RCA and wrote the standard "Smack Dab in the Middle". His own recordings were collected in 1996 for the 30-track compilation *Alias Charles Calhoun*.

Stone formed Atlantic in 1947 to record the best in black music and signed Jesse Stone as an arranger and songwriter who, ironically, became the only black person on the payroll. The R&B saxophonist Frank "Floorshow" Culley brought Stone a tune which he recognised as

his own "Sorghum Switch", and he renamed it "Cole Slaw" in honour of the New York disc-jockey Max Cole, and it became the label's first hit. He befriended Ray Charles and wrote his desolate "Losing Hand" (1953) and he coached the Clovers into developing their hit songs "Sh-Boom" and "One Mint Julep", both in 1953. He wrote their 1954 vignette "Your Cash Ain't Nothing But Trash", which was the template for the Coasters' style.

Lack of money is a frequent theme in blues and rock 'n' roll songs and Stone covered the subject humorously in "Money Honey", arranged for Clyde McPhatter and the Drifters in 1953. McPhatter's lead vocal owed much to his gospel training and added intensity to the playful lyric. The record topped the nation's rhythm and blues chart and has become a rock 'n' roll standard with versions from Elvis Presley, Little Richard, Gary Glitter and Ry Cooder.

Stone wrote further songs for the Drifters but "Bip Bam" (1953) coincided with McPhatter's being drafted and "I Gotta Get Myself a Woman" (1956) was released amidst personnel changes. He worked with Ruth Brown, writing her chart hit "As Long As I'm Moving" (1955), and he arranged Chuck Willis's R&B hit "C.C. Rider" (1956). He also recorded the saxophonist King Curtis, who became a mainstay of Atlantic's record sessions.

Big Joe Turner was a fine blues singer, and Stone, who knew him from Kansas City, emphasised the rhythm rather than the blues in his work. As he put it, "I designed a bass pattern and it became identified with rock 'n' roll". Joe Turner was the first to sing "Shake, Rattle and Roll", and it was then covered for the upcoming white teenage market by Bill Haley and His Comets. Haley decided that the song was too erotic.

Records and formed his own publishing company in the Brill Building, Roosevelt Music. He had little success with new material, although he did encourage young writers, notably Don Covay. He worked as an arranger, including a spell at Frank Sinatra's Reprise label, but a traumatic time with a label connected with gangsters in Chicago made him want to quit the business. In 1966 he married Evelyn McGee of the vocal group Sweethearts of Rhythm, and he returned to New York.

In 1978 he and his wife studied for degrees in music at Kingsboro Community College and they retired to Florida in 1983.

SPENCER LEIGH

Jesse Stone, songwriter; born Atchison, Kansas 16 November 1901; married 1966 Evelyn McGee; died Almonte Springs, Florida 2 April 1999.



Stone: rock 'n' roll sound

Cambridge in cruise mode

ROWING

By HUGH MATTHEWS

CAIRBIDGE EXTENDED their winning run in the Boat Race to even years by once again, for the third year in succession, producing the fastest crew ever. This is not hyperbole or even unexpected. Their finishing time of 16min 41sec broke the pre-1998 record and would have been faster than last year's crew, but for the fact that the tide which pushed them up from Putney to Mortlake was weaker and there was no wind.

The Light Blue coaching team, which seems able to control everything else, has not yet brightened the moon or the breeze under its command. In other sports the achievements of the past are eclipsed by three good factors and one bad.

Improvements in equipment make it easier for each generation to outstrip the past. Improvements in training and technique which are not the same, but lumped together for its argument, are always important. The third good is the clever selection of the available pool of athletes and their superior physical condition. But Cambridge's secret has been the use and combination of the range and various styles and editions which have turned up for the first day of training each year. The bad is, of course, artificial aids such as banned drugs, which are not part of this training tale.

There is a familiar complaint that the Boat Race is no longer between British-born undergraduates. That is because it has always been a private match between the two university clubs. The Boat Race arsons now, as then, provide an accurate representation of the two places. There have been lots of Americans, Canadians, Germans, Norwegians, Swedes, Serbs and Croats in the last few years because that is a reflection of the student body in those places. As the number of races mounts there is also a greater probability that all the benign elements, tide, wind, a great crew and a tight race, will



Cambridge's Toby Wallace kisses Vian Sharif, the cox of the winning crew, before her traditional dunking after the Boat Race Robert Hollom

come together on the same day. When that happened last year the old records went by 30 seconds.

This crew was equally capable but no one least of all their own camp, was convinced they could pull it off. They had gone truly fast in training, finishing two 1,000m rows at Ely in 2min 43secs while trying out the different gearing of the oar length beyond the fulcrum. Then in

Nottingham the week before the race they had skinned a Notts County crew which, although largely composed of lightweights, was hugely experienced. One minute 17 seconds for 500m is respectable speed for a 2,000m Olympic crew and is not expected days before a four-and-a-half-mile race.

When Cambridge won the toss they chose the Surrey side of the course because they hoped they could get the best of the stream in the first couple of

minutes and because they knew they had the speed to get to the first bend without suffering a disadvantage. Afterwards their coach, Robin Williams, said: "I never thought we could take the Fulham bend as well as we did. I could not allow myself the luxury of a smile but I felt we could win from there." Oxford, meanwhile, had looked so secure and confident in training that you could be convinced they

would settle into a solid rhythm and bide their time while Cambridge threw in their early fireworks, before moving to the front. But shortly after the bend had turned in their favour it was difficult to spot the moment when they tried the move. Already they were lacking dash and verve.

It was Tim Wooge - who in training had been slowest to assimilate the Cambridge rhythm and, for some, the surprise choice for the key stroke seat

- who looked the sharper and Oxford's Colin von Ettinghausen, the world champion and Olympic silver medallist, who looked like he was pulling a block of lead. At Hammersmith the gap was still negligible for men of this character and discipline but with 40 clinical strokes Cambridge put the knife in, sweeping clear and leaving Oxford to find their way home, wallowing in their wake for the next three miles.

Slough slump to hosts' rout

HOCKEY

By BILL COLWILL

in 's-Hertogenbosch will play to stay in the A Division. There was no such luck for Clifton in the Cup-Winners' Cup in Terrassa where they drew 1-1 with Lithuanian side Vainorkyste-Gintra and will also play off to defend England's place in the A Division.

Slough never recovered after conceding a goal in the eighth minute to the Argentinian centre-forward Vanina Oneto, the first of her three goals. The Dutch quickly moved into a three-goal lead before Jane Smith pulled one back for Slough, who trailed 6-1 at half-time. Smith scored a second and Sarah Kelleher a third for the English champions but by now the Dutch had taken their total to eight.

Beeston, with goals from Scott Cordon and James Edington, drew 2-2 with Lillo in Amstelveen in the men's club championship and, like Slough,

Result, Digest, page 11

Form with Mims as Sheffield block way

BASKETBALL

By RICHARD TAYLOR

84-77 in the League a month ago. Giants have to lift themselves after the defeat against Sheffield, but must first decide whether to appeal against the two-game ban on coach Nick Nurse, which could keep him out of the quarter-final series with Birmingham Bullets.

Bullets, last season's play-off champions, were the victims of Saturday's surprise result when Leicester City Riders won 87-85 at Derby Storm. Four late points from Leicester's Gene Waldron forced a three-way tie which resulted in Newcastle Eagles finishing fifth, Derby sixth and Bullets seventh.

Quarantine: Sheffield v Greater London, Manchester v Birmingham, Valley v Derby, London v Newcastle.



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July 1999 155

If it hasn't flowered by August, then destroy it

IM GOING to have to be quick because it's Sunday and the weather is glorious and Mrs Bryson has outlined a big, ambitious programme of gardening. Worse, she's wearing what I nervously call her Nike expression - the one that says "Just do it".

Now don't get me wrong. Mrs Bryson is a rare and delightful creature and goodness knows my life needs structure and supervision, but when she gets out a pad and pen and writes the dread words "Things To Do" (vigorously underscored several times), you know it's going to be a long time till Monday.

I love to garden - there is something about the combination of mindless activity and the constant unearthing of worms that suits me somehow - but frankly I am not crazy about gardening with my wife. The trouble, you see, is that she is English and thus can intimidate me. She can say things like, "Have you heeled in the nodes on the *Dianthus chinensis*?" and

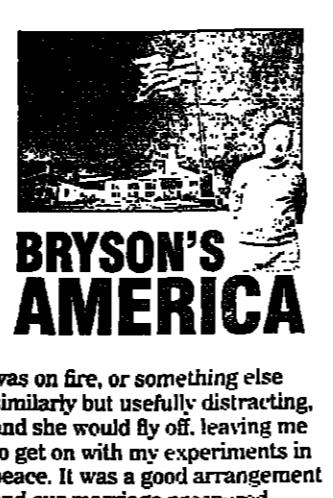
"Did you remember to check the sequestrene levels on the *Phlox subulata*?"

All British people can do this, I find, and it's awful - terrifying. Even now I remember the astonishment of listening to *Gardeners' Question Time* for the first time many years ago and realising with quiet horror that I was in a nation of people who not only knew and understood things like powdery mildew, peach leaf curl, optimum pH levels, and the difference between *Coreopsis verticillata* and *Coreopsis grandiflora*, but cared about them - indeed, found it gratifying to engage in long and lively discussions on such matters.

I come from a background where you are considered to have a green thumb if you can grow a cactus on a windowsill, so my own approach to gardening has always been rather less scientific. My method, which actually works pretty well, is to treat as a weed anything that hasn't flowered by August and to sprinkle everything else with bone meal.

slug pellets, and whatever else I find lying around the potting shed. Once or twice a summer I tip everything with a skull and crossbones on the label into a spray canister and give everything a jolly good dousing. It's an unorthodox approach and occasionally, I admit, I have to leap out of the way of an abruptly falling tree that has failed to respond to my ministrations, but generally it has been a success and I have achieved some interesting effects. I once got a fence post to fruit, for instance.

For years, especially when the children were small and capable of almost anything, my wife left me to the garden. Occasionally she would step out to ask what I was doing, and I would have to confess that I was dusting some weedy-looking things with an unknown powdery substance which I had found in the garage and which I was pretty confident was either nitrogen or cement mix. Usually at that moment one of the children would come out to a trot. I used to be a keen gardener, now I'm a kind of Rickshaw boy.



BRYSON'S AMERICA

was on fire, or something else similarly but usefully distracting, and she would fly off, leaving me to get on with my experiments in peace. It was a good arrangement and our marriage prospered.

Then the children grew large enough to attend to their own cranial blazes and we moved to America, and now I find Mrs B out there with me. Or rather I am there with her, for I seem to have acquired a subsidiary role which principally involves bringing or taking away the wheelbarrow at a trot. I used to be a keen gardener, now I'm a kind of Rickshaw boy.

Anyway, gardening isn't the same here. People don't even have gardens in America. They have yards. And they don't garden in those yards. They work in them. They call it "yardwork". Takes all the fun out of it somehow.

In Britain, nature is fecund and kindly. The whole country is a kind of garden, really. I mean to say, look at how wildflowers pop up along every roadside and dance across meadows. Farmers actually have to go out and exterminate them, well, they don't have to, but they sure like to.

In America, the instinct of nature is to be a wilderness. What you get here are trifid-like weeds that come creeping in from every margin and must be continually hacked back with sabres and machetes. I am quite sure that if we left the property for a month we would come back to find that the weeds had captured the house and dragged it off to the woods to be slowly devoured.

American gardens are mostly lawns, and American lawns are mostly big. This means that you

spend your life raking. In the autumn the leaves fall together with a single great whoomp - a sort of vegetative mass suicide - and you spend about two months dragging them into piles, while the wind does its best to put them all back where you found them. You rake and rake, and cart the leaves off to the woods, then hang up your rake and go inside for the next seven months.

But as soon as you turn your back, the leaves begin creeping back. I don't know how they do it, but when you come out in spring, there they all are again, spread ankle deep across your lawn, choking thorny shrubs, clogging drains. So you spend weeks and weeks raking them up and carting them back to the woods. Finally, just when you get the lawn pristine, there is a great whoomp sound and you realise it's autumn again. It's really quite dispiriting.

And now, on top of all that, my dear missus has suddenly taken a commanding interest in the whole business of domestic horticulture. It's my own fault, I have to admit.

Last year I filled the lawn spreader with a mixture of my own devising - essentially fertiliser, moss killer, rabbit food (initially by mistake, but then I thought, "What the heck?" and tossed in the rest) and a dash of something lively called buprimate and triflorine. Two days later the front lawn erupted in orange stripes of a sufficiently arresting and persistent nature to attract sightseers from as far as northern Massachusetts. So now I find myself on a kind of permanent probation.

Speaking of which, I've got to go. I've just heard the hard, clinical snap of gardening gloves going on and the ominous sound of metal tools being taken down from their perches. It's only a matter of time before I hear the cry of "Boy! Bring the barrow - and look sharp!" But you know the part I really hate? It's having to wear this stupid coolie hat.

'Notes from a Big Country' by Bill Bryson is published by Doubleday, price £16.99



Jeff feels a particular responsibility for Tessanna: 'Through discussing painting we touch on the emotional stuff and what matters to us in our relationship'

Glyn Griffiths

Artists and soul mates

A FAMILY AFFAIR

TESSANNA
I didn't exactly idolise Dad when I was a little girl but there was certainly a special bond between us. Mum worked every day and on Mondays Dad was at home, so I'd say "I've got a headache" and he would always say "Stay at home - we'll go to the cake shop". Then we would write poems together or do my homework sitting in this peaceful room he had painted all white - it was the only calm room in the house because the rest were full of artist's colours.

Dad went to work in America for a few years when I was six. He came back and forth, but he was away for long periods of time and it was hard when he came back because he was still involved with America that he had. He wasn't really with us at all. It made him very tantalising.

My parents were a very glamorous and passionate couple when they were young and, as high fliers, they were swept up into an arty and creative circle. Even now Dad talks about it. He says, "My God, we were gorgeous. It was a wonderful time." There were always artists and musicians in and out the house and I would come home from school, walk into the sitting room and there would be a nude model with Dad painting her.

My parents split up for a time when I was in my teens and at Camberwell art college; in fact, I saw more of my Dad then because he made a great effort to be around. It was during this time that I identified a lot with him as an artist - his way

of putting medium on and nothing being static in his pictures. I did very big, uninhibited water-colours and very passionate drawing and I used lots of colour. I think I represented the part in Dad that was wild and free and physical.

I am sure any mother, unless she is superhuman, would have some jealousy of this father-daughter bond. It showed because every time I was talking to Dad, Mum would want to know what I had said, what was going on. It was, "Oh your father, he gets all the attention. What about me? I'm the one who provides for you and I get stepped on."

But when I was in my twenties I began to identify with Mum. She had a very disciplined approach to her work and she was successful, she made the money. I lacked that discipline and I needed it to survive the next bit of my life, as it were. Looking back, I think I wanted my mother's approval at this point and I became a lot less focused on Dad.

There was a moment when Dad was in America and he was nearly killed in a car accident. I wasn't very

aware of what happened at the time because I imagine Mum protected us. And on the other side Dad's not a drama queen like the rest of the family. He could be suffering the greatest amount of pain and he wouldn't say a goddamned thing.

Now that he's such a big part of my life, I find myself thinking what a dreadful loss it would have been not to have him around at this time.

My mother died three years ago and that has been very hard; I feel I am still grieving and working through our mother-daughter relationship, but it has brought my father and me a lot closer. Through the years we had been living separately and getting on with our own lives, but after Mum's death he seemed to become much more of a parent, a concerned presence in my life. Doing this exhibition with Dad is very important for me and looking at my pictures, I see how my relationship with Dad has affected them. I did a lot of the work in America last summer and I imagine that has something to do with the fact that I sort of lost my father to the US.

Certainly, I was aware of Tessanna's adoration of me particularly when I was in America. She used to write me the most beautiful letters. I began to appreciate her much

because he was so seduced by America during my childhood. But it's not a problem now and it feels very tender and nice to be showing our work together.

JEFF
I see Tessanna as a synthesis of her mother and me, so there were going to be conflicting ideas in her work; I have watched that through the years as her approach and ideas have changed. And I've seen the struggles she has. I have seen my role as being there to empathise through the difficult times and encourage her when things have been going well.

She was the bob end of the family and, as the smallest, always running along behind the bigger ones protesting that they were getting too far in front. I will always have this picture of a screaming little figure trying to keep up.

She is the professional artist among my children, and we have always talked a lot. Through discussing painting we touch on the emotional stuff and what matters to us in our relationship. I would describe

our relationship as ebullient. I'm probably more worldly with her than with most people because I know she's a spirit. I find myself talking about work and cars - things I don't usually talk to people about.

We were lucky to live in St Peter's Square in Chiswick because it was full of creative people, like Vanessa Redgrave and her family; Laurie and Cathy Lee; and Anthony Gormley, who edited *House and Garden* and wore Teddy boy clothes.

My wife always had the door open and everyone knew that if they put their hand through the letterbox, there would be a key. So we would find someone in the morning lying on the sofa not having known they were coming. When we separated for a while, my wife kept the house and treated it like a fortress. I made a great effort to see more of Tessanna when I had the accident. I was hit in car by one of those enormous transporters when it jack-knifed and careered into my car. I was trapped in the front. I heard this burning behind my head and I saw a great orange flame going up as a layer behind me. I tried to get out but both doors were jammed. Then people arrived and pulled me out of the window. I had paint all over me because the acrylics I had been painting with were in the back of the car and the tops had blown off. I remember thinking that this was it and longing to just be with my family. I wrote about it all afterwards and did a drawing for Tessanna.

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INTERVIEWS BY ANGELA NEUSTATTER

Tessanna and Jeff's work will be shown together at Gallery 27, Cork Street, London W1 (0171-281 2018) from 6 to 9 April

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drawing for Tessanna.

I wanted an exhibition with her

because I feel her paintings, which

are black and white, complement the

strong colour in mine. But I also felt

it would help her. I've changed po-

sition a lot since their Mum died. I

have become aware how important

I am in the children's lives and I feel

a particular responsibility in Tess-

anna's case because she's the

artist and a soul mate.

INTERVIEWS BY ANGELA NEUSTATTER

Tessanna and Jeff's work will be

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Street, London W1 (0171-281

2018) from 6 to 9 April

Interviews by Natalie Curry

and Daisy Price

Richard Branson, 48:

"I will be spending Easter with my wife, Joan, and my two children, Holly and Sam. On Monday, A bank holiday for an athlete is the same as any other day, which involves training!"

Jonathan Coleman, 42, Jono, DJ

for Heart 106.2 FM:

"Every Easter, my wife Margot and I take our two kids to Bishopstrowe House in Warminster, a beautiful place filled with restaurants and tennis courts, set in miles of countryside. On Good Friday morning, little Oscar, five, and Emily, two, pack their swimming costumes, while I pack their Easter eggs. There's always an Easter hunt on Sunday morning, followed by a party at lunchtime. So Margot always packs some extra eggs in case mine don't last until Easter Sunday!"

Nicola Duffett, 38, plays Catt

Matthews in

Family Affairs

and formerly Debbie, Nigel's wife, in

EastEnders:

"I am taking

my mother and my two girls away

to Gran Canaria over Easter.

Being a single working mother, it

is extremely important for me to

make the most of my time with the

children, and getting away for a

holiday will be a

perfect way."

Richard Branson, 48:

Tomorrow night, exactly 25 years after pop met its Waterloo at the Eurovision Song Contest, Abba's greatest hits musical *Mamma Mia* opens in London. Is it just a question of money, money, money? By David Benedict

The name of the game

Cast your mind back to 1974. Name the British entry in the Eurovision Song Contest. No? Well, unless you're willing to show yourself to be an anorak of quite frightening dimensions by admitting that it was Olivia Newton-John with "Long Live Love", you've got "nul points".

That fateful April night when 500 million people in 32 countries watched a virtually unknown Swedish pop group beat 16 other entries to win Eurovision was so long ago, there was a guest appearance by The Wombles. But the winner takes it all. A quarter of a century later, almost everyone in the West can still sing along to "Waterloo", the winning song from Agnetha, Anni-Frid, Benny and Bjorn.

When gay clubs began replaying Abba's hits at the start of the Nineties - in suitably quasi-ironic fashion - they incited a best-selling cover version from the likes of Bananarama and Erasure. That led to Abba spear-heading the entire Seventies revival. The world may have stopped short of reclaiming their ghastly costumes, thanks to the first law of fashion - if you can remember wearing it the first time, don't even think about it the second - but compilation CDs like *Abba Gold* are selling by the truckload.

Small wonder that weeks before opening, advance sales for *Mamma Mia*, the musical based on Abba songs, were near the £2m mark and climbing. The show, the brainchild of producer Judy Cramer, who worked with Benny and Bjorn on their hit musical *Chess*, has been in gestation for at least 18 months.

Previous attempts to dramatise their back catalogue (including the sublimely titled *Abbracadaabra*) founders, but after two weeks of previews, *Mamma Mia* opens tomorrow. One reason this version has legs is the calibre of its personnel.

For starters, the producers secured the designer Mark Thompson, the man behind the look, style and feel of the enormously successful revamp of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and the visually entrancing *Doctor Dolittle*. Only after he came on board did they select the director Phyllida Lloyd.

Although this is her first musical, Lloyd is no stranger to the peculiar perils and pleasures of the form, having directed a punchy revival of *The Threepenny Opera* at London's Donmar. As well as endless plays, she's also directed riotously well-received operas. Indeed, she has only just finished Verdi's *Macbeth*. "When I arrived at the read-through immediately after working at the Paris Opera, in terms of concentration, intimacy, commitment and privacy, it was like entering a Peter Brook laboratory." Although she sees more similarities than differences between the forms, the biggest single difference is the musical's dependence on electronics and sound. "The massive presence of amplification means you have to try to



SioBHAN McCarthy, Jenny Galloway and Louise Plowright in 'Mamma Mia'

Geraint Lewis

match that power with the actors."

Amid the brouhaha surrounding the news that the National Theatre is now using microphones, few have addressed the fact that, whereas musical performers once filled the stage with their natural voices, these days every musical is miked.

"Watching something like *Saturday Night Fever*, quite often you can't tell who's speaking because the sound comes from loudspeakers. So we're trying to go for perhaps rather old-fashioned values.

This is not a hi-tech production. We've deliberately gone for a rather hands-on, we-do-it-all ourselves sort of feel." So, no hydraulics then?

Mark Thompson smiles, sheepishly. "Well... there is one element of hydraulics," he concedes. But Lloyd insists that his simple, versatile set has allowed for changes and developments during rehearsals.

Not only does this buck the trend towards spectacle, it also allows for an unusual degree of creative freedom. The grander the set, the earlier it has to be built, and that's usually ages before rehearsals begin. That militates against really major rewrites, a redesign being, at best, almost prohibitively costly.

As Thompson observes, the big

difference between the forms is that opera is a given and can't be changed. "But with musicals, even when the songs are a given, as they are here, it can be tampered with."

With Catherine Johnson's script now in its seventh draft - she's the third writer to have worked on the idea - there has clearly been more

you pray that audiences will go out humming the songs. Here, they go in humming them.

That brings its own difficulties. Stephen Sondheim has always contested that audiences don't hear harmonies, just melodies. Whatever the truth of that generalisation, it is manifestly not the case here. Audi-

worried about a particular strain of orchestration that we thought was preventing the audience from experiencing a particular moment in a scene. So they just said: 'We'll rewrite it.' The backing vocals which audiences know so well have created a particular conundrum. "Take them out because they're inappropriate to the scene and we've found the audience sing them anyway. So we put them back in. We keep trying different things in the right way." Finding a dramatic imperative for the songs has been the aim. "I'm not saying that every song is essential to the drama, but some of them move the story forward and express the inner life of the characters, while others come out of left field."

The story is partly dealing with the Seventies... we needed that excuse to allow a certain cluster of songs. In stark contrast to the quick-fix, flimsy structures propping up most greatest hits-style musicals, Johnson has written a real plot about a girl on the eve of her wedding searching for her real father. Instead of carbon-copy retreats, several songs are sung by another gender of another generation. "The Name of the Game" is no longer

about a relationship. It's now used by somebody asking someone to declare if they are their father. "Does Your Mother Know?" is now sung by an older woman to a very young boy trying to make a pass at her.

"We're trying to make you hear them in a new way," says Lloyd, rebuking those who wish to write it off as another cheap compilation. Let's face it, Abba can't be in it just for the money. In 1982 they were Sweden's highest foreign currency earners - more than Volvo. Disc sales are unimaginable and they get both performance and writers royalties.

A percentage of potential box-office millions is not exactly a tough pill to swallow for Lloyd and Thompson, but they are remarkably free of cynicism. "We're trying not to take ourselves too seriously," says Lloyd, "but the ballads in particular are like little theatrical tales. We want to create an extraordinarily festive, witty, ironic, surprising bed for these wonderful songs, and to make a story that releases them in a sometimes surprising way."

"We hope to create pure pleasure. We're not splitting the atom."

Prince Edward Theatre, London. Box office: 0171-447 5400

Play it again, Ben

POP

BEN LEE
IMPROV THEATRE
LONDON

IT SEEMS odd that lyrics such as "Please take off your clothes" comes easily to the 20-year-old singer-songwriter Ben Lee, but the loss of a shirt button prompts a furious flush of embarrassment.

"This is truly unexpected," he gibbered. "I cannot continue with my shirt hanging open." A chorus of whoops in the audience suggested otherwise, but Lee was clearly uncomfortable and asked for a new one.

Unfortunately, this was not the only difficulty that he encountered. Lee arrived on stage to find half the audience sitting cross-legged on the floor as if re-enacting a scene from Sixties' Haight-Ashbury, and it wasn't until after his second track that he plucked up the courage to ask them to stand up. His desire to stand at the front of the stage was also hampered by crackling feedback, while on one occasion he had to call a halt to proceedings in order to tune his guitar. However - even if the clumsy nature of Lee's set was occasionally difficult to watch - it was utterly engaging.

Lee's extraordinary vocal range added much-needed weight to his songs. The mainstream catchiness of his album, *Breathing Tornadoes*, can be grating, but Lee revealed a pleasing graininess to his voice that belied his years, and infused the material with earth-shattering intensity.

This depth of feeling was also displayed in his curious stage antics. You feared for Lee's safety throughout "Cigarettes Will Kill You" as he spun round on his heels, causing his guitar lead to wrap tightly around his ankles, while his ungainly attempts at dancing were enough to make the notoriously goofy Beck look slickly choreographed.

Like Beck, Lee is in possession of an unfashionable enthusiasm for performance - to the point of sometimes forgetting his surroundings. As he wrapped himself around the microphone and balanced his guitar on his head during "Ship My Body Home", he could have been a schoolboy becoming carried away in front of the mirror in the privacy of his bedroom. You felt that you weren't supposed to be privy to such adolescent melodrama, yet it was disarmingly moving.

One imagines Lee's youthful enthusiasm will soon be squashed as relentless touring takes its toll. Indeed, his songs might actually benefit from a bit of adult cynicism. But this precocious musician's unwavering belief in the power of live performance - albeit with a decidedly creaky guitar - made for one of the most fresh and most compelling shows this year.

FIONA STURGES

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1960 *Ben Hur* won a record 10 Oscars ("...and many thanks to my chariot-dealer..."). On the same day in 1874 Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*, featuring a baritone dressed as a bat, began fitting round for the first time.

Tomorrow Albrecht Dürer died in 1528. His *Study of a Hare* is much reproduced but he presumably held greater store by his 100-square-foot *Triumphal Arch*, the largest known woodcut. The first in-flight movie was screened in 1925. *The Lost World* - not Steven Spielberg's but the good version, based on Arthur Conan Doyle's original yarn.

Wednesday In 1919 Britain heard its first jazz music, from The Original Dixieland Jazz Band at the Hippodrome in London; they were sacked instantly for being better than the star of the show. But then no one said the blues would be easy: ask Billie Holiday, born in 1915.

Thursday Good news for pianists without room for a grand came in 1807: William Southwell patented the upright piano. Ten years ago

London heard the first complete performance of *Odyssey*, the symphony which Nicholas Maw which clocked up the longest single-movement work in Western musical history: 100 (no coughing please) minutes.

Friday The first British drama series began in 1954: *The Grove Family* featured Mr Grove, Mrs Grove and Granny Grove. Carl Perkins was born in 1932; his "Blue Suede Shoes" was so outstanding that even Cliff Richard made a good fist of it.

Saturday The first conductor to perform in Britain was German Louis Spohr, keeping the tempo at a Philharmonic Society concert in 1820. As seen in *Boycott*, Stuart Sutcliffe, the original Beatles bass-player, died in Hamburg.

Sunday In 1968 the music for Kenneth MacMillan's ballet *Elite Syncopations*, based on Scott Joplin's music and performed in two pianos; the rest of the Bavarian State Opera orchestra was silent, quoting a 1937 Nazi law banning music by black people.

JONATHAN SALE

The long and winding road

CLASSICAL

ENDLESS PARADE
BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:
SIR ANDREW DAVIS
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
LONDON

The concert opened with "Millennium Scenes" by 28-year-old Richard Causton. His programme note described it as a response to the apparently empty triumphalism of the official festivities and invoked the analogy of fleeting images or cinematic scenes - a model of continuity or discontinuity that Debussy adopted near the beginning of the century.

By now we're probably immune to shock from the bombardment of diverse information - it all tends to co-

alesce - and though Causton built his 14-minute piece from short sections, they were quite respectably stitched together. The sound-world was harsh and cold, with a lot of piercing woodwind (and even whistles for the percussionists), and in the most subtle section, where the strands of eerie harmonies (the jargon is "spectral"), which also happens to be poetically apt, shifted apart, the music's climate was still unfriendly. Which is precisely my feeling about the future.

And what of eternity, which is the subject of Michael Tippett's ambitious cantata (oratorio, if you like), *The Vision of St Augustine*? If it seems strange that just as he turned 60 Tippett completed a work setting words (in Latin) he couldn't believe, then perhaps the point was to address a question that was - is - there. Similarly,



Birtwistle and Causton

Tippett's music strives rather than achieves. One of his musical starting-points was the sort of struggling polyphony you find in the finale of Beethoven's Choral Symphony or the *Grosse Fuge*, which wells up in the middle section of the cantata as Aug-

ustine touches on the nature of eternity itself. Tippett's music is nothing if not courageous, and at least some of its ugliness is deliberate - as when the choral sopranos sing the words "O eterna veritas et vera caritas et cora eternitas!" ("O eternal truth and true love and beloved eternity") to notes set apart by wide intervals.

The women of the BBC Singers and Symphony Chorus were clearer than the men, while the baritone Alan Opie struggled manfully, not sanctimoniously. I noticed most of the audience didn't even attempt to follow the words in the programme book. No doubt they all coalesced nicely.

ADRIAN JACK

Further concerts in the series: Saturday 24 April, Thursday 29 April, RFH. Booking: 0171-960 4212

A few cards short of the full deck

THEATRE

THE GIN GAME
SAVOY THEATRE
LONDON

inutes - "one half is shaking so goddam much they can't focus, the other half is asleep" - a fact picked up on by the design. Peep through the French windows at the back and you can see a sitting room in which two motionless grey heads jut out above the back of a sofa, a piece of set dressing that is certain to be among the nominations for this year's for

"Most Creative Use of Wigs" award.

Fortunately, there is more activity downstairs as events turn into a battle of elderly wits over increasingly vitriolic card games. It's touching, but a very long way from *Dealer's Choice*.

The programme boasts dozens of starry cast productions worldwide, but that says more about the dearth of decent roles for actors over 65 than the quality of the play which is little more than an excuse for good acting. With veteran director Frith Banbury managing to pace everything to perfection, that's precisely what you get. His well-judged production has

a place for everything and everything in its place.

Every early assertion about independence is later blown apart by personal revelations under pressure as Weller - a kind of foul-mouthed Ironside sans wheelchair - proves himself to be a tyrannically bad loser.

Poor terrified Fonsia struggles to retain her dignity but finally descends to Weller's level and cries "fuck". It that scandalises but secretly thrills you, book now.

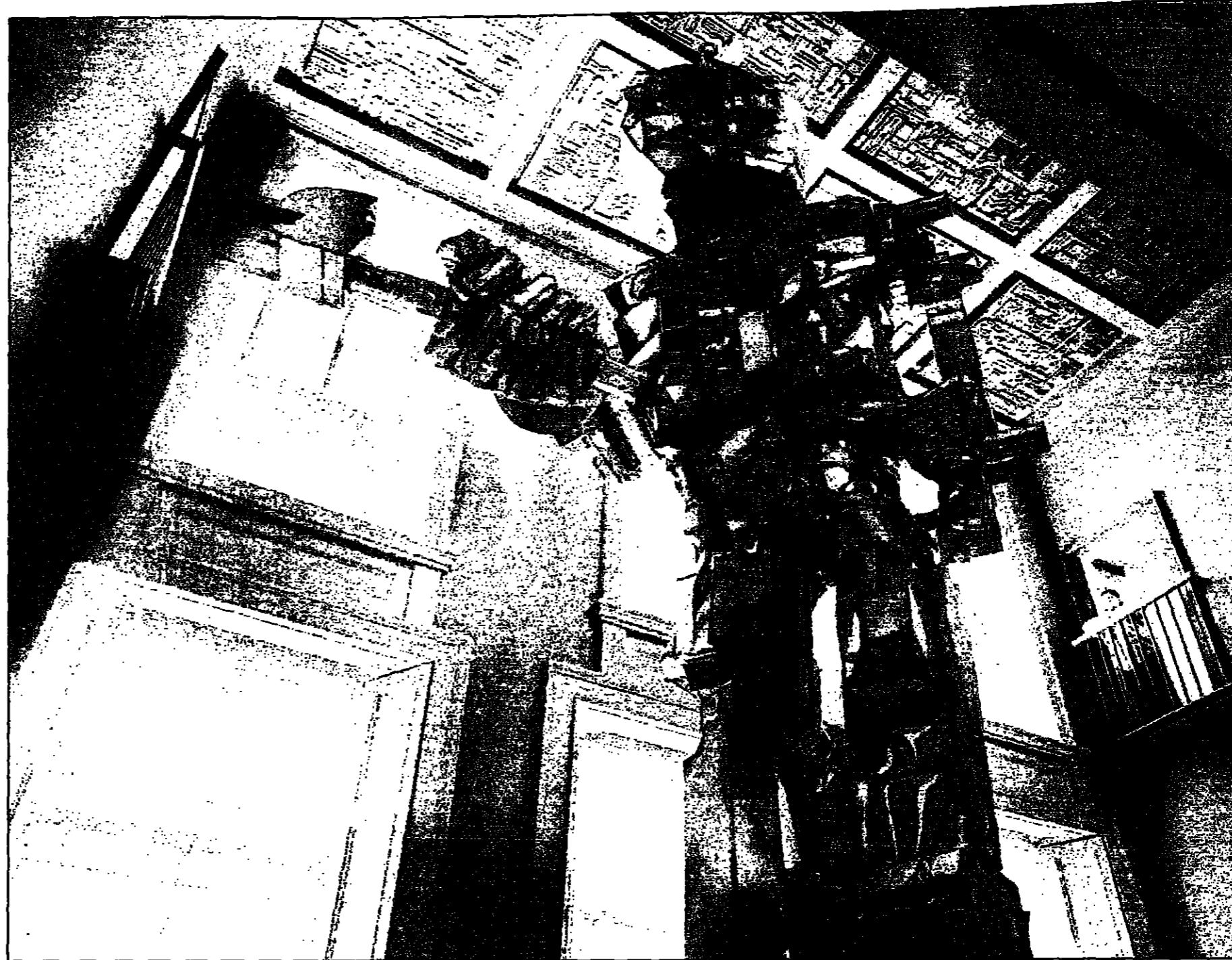
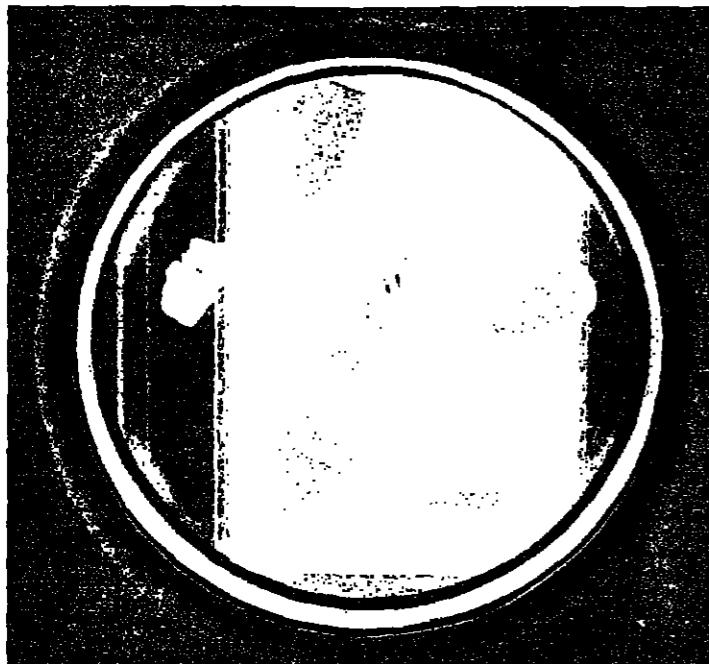
DAVID BENEDICT

Box office: 0171-836 8888



An austere Victorian orphanage has been transformed into a gallery fit for Sir Eduardo Paolozzi's work. By Nonie Niesewand

The Vulcan has landed



Colin McPherson

It's a surreal thing. A gigantic tin man with welded seams and a Frankenstein's Monster face stalks through the core of the new national Dean Gallery in Edinburgh. *Vulcan*, a 15-foot sculpture by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, is allegorical: Vulcan, god of fire and the working of metals, as well as the patron of craftsmen in mythology, shows us that post-modernism is back in fashion. Man and machine are celebrated in Modernism but the post-modernists like to put a bit of poetry and fantasy back into their projects.

Terry Farrell, the architect, shaped this gallery inside an old stone orphanage. The corridor that runs 154 feet from one end of the building to the other is tall and stuffed with objects of curiosity; the glass showcases are lit with brilliant fibre optics and every available space is used to show off the collection.

A hippo skull atop a joist overlooks busts and torsos perched above architraves on the pediments. Paolozzi's Chelsea studio is recreated in the gallery – even the magazine pages from which he cut out images to make his collages are stored here, giving a fascinating glimpse into his way of working.

Paolozzi has said that his ideal gallery would be a gutted cathedral, full of clutter and change. Farrell has sympathy with that: "There is in my own work a magpie quality in what I do, I like the mix and unlikely juxtaposition – such as the garage-like TV station [TV-AM] I did in Camden, the grand palace that is the Charing Cross office."

A shy man, Sir Eduardo deliberately turned up late for the opening on 25 March but Lord Snowdon, who opened the exhibition, was clear in his opinion that a gallery should be created for the artist in his lifetime. "Absolutely right for an artist of his standing. It was generous of him to donate his work to the nation so now it's there for posterity."

Architects working there at

night for the past four years say that although they have never seen a ghost, the place was spooky. Farrell has done everything to dispel that. Now the ram motif inspires the chairs in the Dean Café which stand on cloven-hoofed feet. Small silver studs on the black wooden seat represent the constellation of Aries, sign of the ram. Daylight from roof lights shines through glass panels in the floor above and onto intensely coloured walls, bringing the place alive. But there are pools of shadow to keep the mystery.

Sue Farrell, the architect's wife, has collaborated with him for 15 years and in the magnificent cobalt-blue corridor, sparkling under fibre optic lights, she has achieved the impossible feat of warming up blue to an Yves Klein intensity that makes the space dynamic. Blue is usually cool but this colour is not. "It's called Betty Blue Two, after a Dior

dress Queen Elizabeth II wore in the Sixties," Terry Farrell explains. Girls and boys were separated by a thick stone wall which had the effect of cutting brutally in half the gracious Neo-classical building with two wings on either side of the entrance. The windows were above fireplaces where you would expect a fire and it is possible to stand in

such a thing." Terry Farrell is bemused. "Hamilton continuously did it throughout the building. It was like a mad challenge, obsessive." So Farrell, of course, kept them and added a few of his own and used glass bull's-eyes set into the floor to house some of Paolozzi's beautifully sculpted feet and hands.

There was no spatial organisa-

storage space in the basement and offices in the wings for the National Galleries of Scotland. The Heritage Lottery Fund found £6.5m for the £9m project.

First he blasted through the block that separated the girls' and boys' wings and concentrated on a double-height floor for the great hall where the *Vulcan* sculpture landed. Then he put in two bull's-eye windows in the floor so that you can see from top to bottom, just as you can see from one end of the corridor to the other.

Now there is a legible reading of

the building as a total space, the reverse of that almost blockaded 19th-century orphanage. To insert load-bearing floors, bathe it with light and create a central axis uniting the building was technically difficult – putting porthole windows into structural support walls is a real challenge – but the effect is seamless. You would never know.

Like all post-modernists – and

Farrell admits we do live in the post-

modern era whether you want to call

it New Modernism or whatever – he

has always enjoyed the allegorical.

He has respected the Classical

with Hamilton's plan uninterrupted,

built rooms for art that he admires

and used the ideas of William Blake

as inspiration. William Blake chal-

lenged the legacy of Isaac Newton

in his own time and Farrell, reading

through his poems, found 40 refer-

ences to Newton in them.

So he took Paolozzi's great figure

of Newton which was designed for

the British Library and levitated a

second casting among the diners in

the gallery's cafe. Props winched under

the building with boxes removed from

a void which means Newton rises off

of his plinth effectively to hang in mid-air. Terra is not so firma in the

Farrell lexicon.

Southwark: walking back to happiness

Radical projects in a south London borough aim to improve the lot of the pedestrian. By Ellis Woodman

IN THE summer of 1996 a disused car-wash in south London played host to an extraordinary exhibition. A collaboration between Southwark Council and the Architecture Foundation, Future Southwark set itself the task of re-imagining the streets of its immediate locale. Eight teams of architects were asked to consider what might be done to improve public spaces. Now Southwark Council has realised some of the ambition of that show: three of the proposals have been implemented.

The car-wash was pulled down not long afterwards, but the street on which it stood, Southwark Street, has enjoyed a radical redesign by the architect firm, muf. In order to calm the nerves of planning committees and highways departments, muf were at first only allotted funding for a 100m-long "pilot project". To an extent, one can sympathise with the panickers: muf describe their scheme as an "urban beach" but the nearest body of water is the Thames, a good 200 metres to the north. A beach without water is an obscure candidate for over £1m of public funding. And yet, based on the success of the now completed trial, money has been found to transform the remaining 600 metres of Southwark Street.

So what does the work involve? In basic terms, the architects are creating an expanded footway with associated planting, lighting signage and street furniture. They have given their attention solely to the

south-facing pavement, aiming to create the most generous space possible on the sunny side of the street. For stretches, the pedestrian wins back the width of a traffic lane. The new space is therefore broad enough to support a range of activities without hampering the passage of A-to-Bers. Not, perhaps, unlike a beach. The new ground surface – concrete embedded with Thames stonings – does much to reinforce that reading. The street also happens to form the main route to Bankside Power Station – soon to be the Tate Gallery of Modern Art. In anticipation of the visitor onslaught, office use is being swept aside in favour of cafes, shops and hotels.

Muf's design emerged from a consultation process which gathered the views of residents, visitors and those who work in the area. The responses seemed often fantastical, often in direct conflict and yet the final scheme manages to honour a remarkable number of those demands. The residents' association envisaged the area as a pleasure garden, planted from end to end. There is little available land for such a scheme, but by planting along the faces of buildings, the architects manage to eke out a continuous green ribbon. Grieves about stopped access to the raised ground floors of existing buildings are answered in the next phase of the project, and not with the cursory disabled ramp – rather, the entire pavement humps up. It is an inclu-

sive sensibility also in evidence in the pilot project. The built work includes a pair of black concrete benches, resembling a couple of beached whales. Their design followed workshops in which the concerns of local children were sought and as a result, one bench has a special child-height seat set into it.

No one has any delusions about Southwark Street's cafe culture extending onto neighbouring Borough High Street: as the latter is one of central London's main

traffic arteries, there is too much noise and no potential to widen pavements. Nonetheless, the architect firm East's re-landscaping programme does much to improve the lot of the pedestrian. East have relaid the pavements in a dark blue. It is a strong choice, sitting happily against the grimey brick of the predominant Victorian building stock. This new surface provides the background for an ingenious lexicon of signage. Doorways to shops are designated name-plaques in multi-coloured terrazzo. More significant addresses such as Green Market

have their names cut into new "threshold mats" in laid granite. Side streets are named with a fating of the kerb-line. As street signs are almost invariably sealed for the attention of the car-user, it is a pleasure to encounter so much reading intended for those travelling at three rather than 30 miles per hour. Larger-scale interventions are planned for the ends of the street – to the south, a huge free-standing planter, and to the north, a billboard-sized mirror giving improved views of Southwark Cathedral from the street.

The third project, opening this week, is the most conventionally building-like. Eric Parry Architects have sheathed a new visitor centre under one of the concourses that joins London Bridge Station to the wider world. Housed within a minimal glass envelope, the visitor centre proper defer to a second structure located immediately next door. This takes the form of a 16m stone spire, canted over the pavement at a precarious angle. At one level it operates as a signpost; the architects' drawings, however, refer to the structure as a "monument". So a monument to what? There is perhaps a clue to be found immediately on the other side of London Bridge. There stands Wren's Monument – a lone 20ft column, built of the same Portland Whited stone as the new structure. The Monument, boldly phallic in form, carries a regenerative association – appropriate



Serving outsiders: London Bridge visitor centre Emma Boam

NETWORK

Safety by numbers

A hot new piece of software is set to revolutionise the aircraft building industry.

By Mark Chadbourne

Investigation reports into the spate of plane crashes over the last two years have cast a question mark over how truly safe the skies are. But a new piece of software developed by a team from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, could bring a sigh of relief to troubled airline passengers by helping consign to history crashes caused by equipment failure.

It has caused such a ripple of excitement among plane manufacturers that it is also being investigated by Nasa, which sees it as a way of preventing another space shuttle disaster.

AutoSteve carries out what is known as Failure Mode Effects Analysis, a test of all the electrical circuits in a product. It predicts each possible failure for every component in the circuit and the knock-on effect of that failure. Until now, these tests have been carried out by hand, a laborious, time-consuming process which is open to human error brought about by boredom or lack of concentration. The implications are obvious for complicated pieces of technology such as aeroplanes and space shuttles, where the failure of a single circuit can have myriad repercussions which fan out throughout the structure.

But its potential was also recognised early on by car makers Ford and Jaguar, which helped finance the prototype. It has been tested by both companies for almost a year, checking circuits of their various models with remarkable results. And those results will benefit just about everyone – cars will be safer and more reliable. They will also be cheaper to make, but whether that saving will be passed on to the buyer remains to be seen.

"It will make cars safer. Absolutely. It will also make costs cheaper," explains Richard Shipman, AutoSteve systems engineer. "You can take individual components and test them and if it proves it doesn't make any difference to the safety of the car it can be cut out. And they will be more reliable because there will be fewer recalls."

"In the past, there has been a lot of lip service paid to this kind of fault analysis, but often the most basic kind of analysis slips off the engineer's desk. Their attitude, honed through experience, has been, 'This is so trivial, I don't have to do it.' But AutoSteve often picks up on faults they wouldn't have expected, even with all their experience," Shipman says. "The program always looks at the most detailed level whereas an engineer might say, 'My experience tells me I can gloss over this.'

"Only about two or three years ago, the complexity of the average car electrically was such that an engineer could sit and think about the fault analysis and then write it up," Shipman says. "Now the average Ford has several tons of computers in there. Lots of wiring. Engineers don't have the ability to conceptualise that will make cars safer. Absolutely. It will also make costs cheaper," explains Richard Shipman, AutoSteve systems engineer. "You can take individual components and test them and if it proves it doesn't make any difference to the safety of the car it can be cut out. And they will be more reliable because there will be fewer recalls."

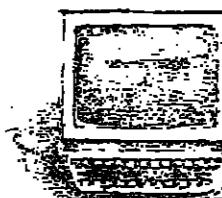
"In the past, there has been a lot of lip service paid to this kind of fault analysis,"



An aircraft assembly line at Boeing: the company is in 'serious discussions' with AutoSteve's developers

BYTES
ANDY OLDFIELD

Key developers quit Netscape



AOL RECENTLY acquired Netscape division lost two key developers last week when Jamie Zawinski and John Giannandrea left the company. Giannandrea, a co-creator of Communicator's smart browsing features, had been with the company for five years when he left on Friday. The day before, Zawinski, Netscape engineer and Mozilla.org project co-founder, had tendered his resignation.

"Netscape has been a great disappointment to me for quite some time," he said in a message posted on the Web. "The more people involved, the slower and stupider their union is."

"In my humble but correct opinion, we should have shipped Netscape Navigator 5.0 no later than six months after the source code was released. But [the Mozilla.org group] couldn't figure out a way to make that happen. I accept my share of responsibility for this, and consider this a personal failure."

AOL and Mozilla.org said they regretted the resignations. "[Zawinski and Giannandrea] have done really excellent work in getting Mozilla where it is now," said Mike Shaver, who will take over Zawinski's responsibilities for developer relations. "But Mozilla is bigger than Netscape, and it's certainly bigger than two or three people."

Industry rumours suggest that the resignations could be the start of a Netscape brain drain and that other key figures will also leave shortly.

information will be collected when they use a site, and how it will be used for marketing.

"We felt this was an opportunity for us to use the economic or financial leverage of advertising to encourage sites without a privacy policy to adopt and clearly post policies for people to see," said an IBM spokesman, John Bukovinsky.

"It's critical that private industry take whatever initiatives it can to ensure fundamental privacy practices are followed."

MICROSOFT SAID last week that it has completed development of the Office 2000 suite of business software programs and will begin shipping it to corporate customers this month. Retail versions of the latest releases of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access will go on sale to the general public on 10 June.

A third and final beta test version of the Windows 2000 operating system is anticipated this month. Jon Perera, lead product manager for Windows 2000, confirmed that Microsoft would deliver the beta this month and that final shipment of a full version was likely before the end of the year.

"We're in a very good position," he said. "[But] promising a date would be the wrong thing to do. There's nobody who can promise one month from another."

COREL CORPORATION last week moved to win back a significant share in the office suite market by announcing an alliance with the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) PC Chips group.

WordPerfect Suite 8 will be bundled with every motherboard shipped by PC Chips. Last year, the Hong Kong-based manufacturer shipped more than 15 million motherboards, putting it ahead of Compaq, IBM and Dell, which shipped 13, 8 and 7 million respectively.

The alliance also involves a joint marketing campaign that will support the upcoming release of WordPerfect Office 2000 and Corel's graphics products and e-commerce packages.

"The sheer scale of PC Chips' reach makes this Corel's largest OEM opportunity to date, and one that will be hard to surpass," said Michael Cowpland, Corel's president and chief executive officer. "This will significantly increase the penetration of our WordPerfect productivity applications round the world."

I've been bitten by the online auction bug

A FEW weeks ago, while on a trip to California, I caught the online auction bug. I was looking for a digital camera and someone suggested OnSale, a US auction site (www.onsale.com). Feeling adventurous and up for some online haggling, I read the FAQs and registered on the site to join the elite club of "bidders".

I immediately got the impression that the site was absolutely heaving with frenzied buyers, with real-time offers flying around at the speed of light. I managed to place a few bids on attractive-looking items, including a Toshiba digital camera, but, seconds later, I was outbid by JP from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who was obviously developing a passion for the same item.

After a couple of attempts I considered giving up and going to a non-auction site where I could buy the same item for

more money but without the worry. Just when I was close to giving up, though, my bid managed to outlast others and I got my camera for about 20 per cent less than I would have paid at Fry's supermarket in Palo Alto.

Then I tried another site, eBay (www.ebay.com), where I bid and won a diving trip to Aruba for \$480 (the normal price was \$1,200). I didn't have time to go there, so ended up trading it with a friend for a house-share in Hawaii. But it was great fun anyway. I'm sure Aruba has attracted plenty of accidental travellers thanks to eBay.

The process of bidding (and winning) is quite simple. You register, post your bid and look at the real-time listings to see whether yours is the highest bid. If you get overtaken by a more aggressive bidder, you will know immediately and can take action by upping the stakes. The ego

trip of being shown in the Winner's Circle for 15 minutes, not to mention the trepidation of waiting for the outcome, was far better than simply walking into Dixons and paying the (much higher) recommended retail price for the same item.

Bidding on eBay is fun, but only for those who like to take a risk. OnSale is essentially sales only, and from reputable manufacturers. OnSale manages the relationship between buyer and seller, so if something goes wrong it takes full responsibility.

On the other hand, eBay offers the opportunity to sell as well as buy things on its pages, and doesn't provide much in the way of guarantees for third-party deals. If the product is not up to your sophisticated standards, you are on your own when it comes to getting your money back. There is some vague returns process, but it comes

with plenty of severe-looking disclaimers from eBay.

The best thing is that online auctions bring back the pleasure of haggling in the market

seven days. But it's definitely not for the faint-hearted. UK buyers can't play, as at present you can't get them to deliver items further than exotic Mexico, which may reflect the average American concept of the End of the World. Beyond Mexico there are monsters and Brits, none of whom merit an extension of eBay's commercial interest.

When I got back to the UK, I tried the Yahoo! auctions, but, sadly, got routed into the US section, where you can't buy if you are a member of the lower form of online life (ie a non-American buyer). Undaunted, I then found a Brit-friendly auction. If you want to play the haggling game, try QXL (www.qxl.co.uk). It is a neat, well-organised service, and the bidding process is quite similar to OnSale.

Where I found it puzzling, though, is that on a few

occasions where I bought items from QXL, the goods didn't really look much like the item in the picture. Only then did I realise that there is a disclaimer pointing out that the illustration is purely ornamental and may not resemble the product itself. I guess QXL wants us to reach that higher level of abstraction, not satisfied with skipping human sales assistant, eliminating the cashier but also removing the association between the picture and the product itself.

There is also a potential hitch when you buy more than one product, as QXL is likely to source them from two or more suppliers, and each of them will bill you separate delivery charges, which is not entirely transparent in the instructions, so you need to watch for that.

I intended to send my purchase to a friend in Poland, eva@never.com



EVA
PASCOE

The best thing is that online auctions bring back the pleasure of haggling in the market

with plenty of severe-looking disclaimers from eBay.

I've bought a couple of things on eBay. Both arrived in good shape and within the promised

Lauren Booth found a new role for herself when she discovered the world of online gaming

Just call me Wolverine

It was 2.30am and I was walking alone down a cold, damp alley. I was relieved when a little man approached and asked if I knew where I was going. When I asked for directions, though, things turned nasty. "New girl round here, eh?" he dribbled menacingly. "Don't waste my time!" With that he spat at me and pushed me over before running away into the pitch dark. This was my first contact with the sometimes violent but always fascinating world of online gaming.

So how did I become a victim of Internet assault? I was lured by advertising, of course. One afternoon, as I sought distraction from my usual bulk of celeb mags and political rags, those racks of shiny, blood-red computer magazines with the cover-mounted CDs called my name and promised quick-fix adventures. Back at home, I innocently logged on and was automatically connected to the savagery and joy of the role-play and shoot-'em-up games I had installed on my PC.

So shocking and real was that first online assault - barely eight minutes later - that it left me shaking and upset even after I had turned off my PC and sat sipping black coffee in the kitchen. So furious was I that a stranger had treated me so harshly that I knew I must go back and prove myself no weakling or pushover in the gaming world.

This is how the new spate of computer-generated addictions begins. With humiliation. Making an error or being a "newbie" in an online game is as potentially devastating an experience as starting a new school dressed in the wrong uniform or ladder your tights before an interview. There are personal insecurities you have to overcome in virtual zones and the spooky cyber-silence from playmates that greets each tactical error serves to make you more determined to succeed in your new life (perhaps where you failed miserably in your real one). You quickly begin to crave the fix of mutual gaming respect.

After my first online assault, I



I stormed through sewers with a pocketful of grenades, "fragging" every man in sight," says Lauren Booth

Hannah Gal

turned to commando games like *Quake II* to boost my self-confidence. For weeks, I stormed through sewers with a machine gun and pocketful of grenades, "fragging" every man in sight as a superbad and technowarrior called "Wolverine". This phase I now think of as my online teenage years. What an overenthusiastic upstart with no "life" experience I was then. I even chose a female character because, deep down, I believed the male players would feel bad shooting me and perhaps even give me a helping hand. How sweet I was then, and how wrong.

Internet role-play offers the clear-cut route to witnessing society's current fashions and values firsthand. Clearly, Web equality means that men and women may all begin as equal players, with the same amount of weapons, but women are still easier to hurt and intimidate, and there are as many men as ever out there who really enjoy hurting women. Still better than at home.

I remember with a shiver the first time a man shot me in the back so many times that I exploded into a thousand pulped, pet food-sized pieces. I leapt up from my PC swearing and shocked. "In the back, you creep! How could you?" Then I vowed his ultimate annihilation.

Better than Life was a game played by the characters in *Red Dwarf* that involved plugging all of the body's vital systems into a computer and living out your most

magnificent dreams via a modem attached to the brain. The problem Lister, Cat et al slowly discovered was that, while their minds were convinced that they were in *Barbados* sipping cocktails with Kate Moss, their bodies were totally neglected and beginning to die. So as I slumped gorging on a genetically mutated burger and slurping an additive-laden milkshake that episode was brought to mind. The irony didn't have any impact at the time, though. Wolverine never gains an ounce and is a fit as a marine.

However, my online adventuring may be drawing to a contented close. I fear I am already approaching gaming middle age. Recently I discovered a new game called *Ultima Online*. Here you enter Britannia and attempt to build a life for yourself in the villages and towns of ye old fashioned world.

Suddenly I feel the urge to settle down and start tending cabbages as a hobby. I am considering opening a small school on the east side of town and have even met quite a nice blacksmith who has a two-bedroom cottage of his own. It has taken Kevin, his alter ego, 10 months and 20 hours a week online to achieve a successful career. What a guy!

Weddings are common in Britannia and I feel content just wandering the streets of my newfound homeland and gossiping with neighbours. You see, on the Net even retirement and alternative family life are catered for. And I won't ever have to change a nappy.

After my first online assault, I

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GREENWICH
GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich A Bug's Life 11.50am, 1.40pm La Vida Is Bella 7pm Little Voice 2.30pm Madeline 12.45pm Mighty Joe 12noon, 2.15pm Payback 4.25pm, 6.45pm 9pm Plunkett and Maclean 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 4.30pm, 9.15pm

HAMMERSMITH
VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) \oplus Raven-scout Park/Hammersmith A Bug's Life 12.40pm La Vida Is Bella 6pm, 8.40pm Mighty Joe 12.30pm, 3.10pm Payback 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 9pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm The Rugrats Movie 11.20am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.15pm Shake-speare in Love 8.15pm, 9.15pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-902 0413) \oplus Belsize Park American History X 8.15pm A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.10pm La Vida Is Bella 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 2pm, 4pm, 6pm Tea With Mussolini 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm

HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) \oplus Har-row-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Weald-stone Aarzoo 1.30pm Hain 5pm International Khalid 8.45pm Jaanam Samia Karo 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) \oplus Harrow-on-the-Hill American History X 9.40pm Arlington Road 5.40pm, 8.40pm, 8.40pm Blast from the Past 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm Mighty Joe 10am, 1.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.40pm Patch Adams 9.20pm Payback 10.20am, 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 12.20pm, 3.60pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 9pm The Prince of Egypt 10.50am The Rugrats Movie 9.50am, 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 7.10pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 9.10pm Waking Ned 1.50pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

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ODEON (08705 050007) \oplus Hol-loway Road/Archway Blast from the Past 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.35pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm, 9.30pm Waking Ned 12.40pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 8pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) \oplus High-gate A Bug's Life 12.55pm La Vida Is Bella 6pm, 8.20pm Mighty Joe 1pm, 3.30pm Payback 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 6.55pm, 8pm Plunkett and Maclean 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye American History X 6.45pm, 9.15pm Beloved 8.30pm Blast from the Past 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.05pm A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 2.35pm, 4.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 8.10pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Eltham A Bug's Life 2pm Payback 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.25pm, 7.10pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Wimbleton/Brake Central A Bug's Life 1.25pm Payback 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.40pm The Rugrats Movie 1.40pm, 3.40pm, 5.30pm Shakespeare in Love 5.55pm, 8.30pm The Thin Red Line 7.30pm, 9.10pm You've Got Mail 6.50pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) \oplus South Woodford A Bug's Life 1.45pm Payback 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.30pm Shakespeare in Love 8.10pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 1.30pm Mighty Joe 1.00pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Plunkett and Maclean 2.25pm, 4.00pm, 6.50pm, 8pm The Rugrats Movie 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.20pm, 6.25pm, 8.25pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-902 0401) \oplus Putney Bridge, BR: Putney A Bug's Life 1.30pm Payback 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm Shakespeare in Love 8.15pm

LONDON
ICA CINEMA The Mall, SW1 (0171-930 3647) \oplus The Promise (La Promesse) (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm La vita in la vita (Noi non Na-no Na-Higashigoto) (NC) 6.30pm, 8.45pm

ISLAMIC CENTRE Maidla Vale, W1 (0171-604 5523) \oplus Lodgers (NC) 5pm Naser-eddin Shah, The Cinema Actor (NC) 7.30pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) Mulan (U) 4pm Rome Express (NC) 6.15pm The Apple (Sib) (PG) 6.30pm Man of Aran (TC) / The Is-landers (NC) 8.30pm Out of Sight (15) 8.40pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2 (0181-444 6789) A Bug's Life 10.15pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC1 (0171-437 8181) Antz (PG) 12noon The Siege (15) 1.15pm Pecker (18) 2pm Two Girls and a Guy (18) 4.15pm Out of Sight (15) 6.20pm Two Girls and a Guy (18) 8.45pm Practical Magic (12) 9pm

THE PULLMAN EVERYMAN Holly Wood, NW3 (0171-606 2345) A Bug's Life (U) 2.30pm Night of the Hunter (15) 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm

PLUNKETT AND MACLEAN 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 1.05pm Patch Adams 3.15pm, 8.25pm Payback 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.45pm Plunkett and Maclean 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm The Rugrats Movie 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm Shakespeare in Love 8.15pm Waking Ned 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER (0171-707 0217) BR: Crib-wood, BR: Stamford Hill American History X 12.30pm Gods and Monsters 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 1.20pm Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm Shakespeare in Love 8.15pm Waking Ned 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STRATFORD
NEW PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR: Stratford A Bug's Life 12.30pm Gods and Monsters 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm A Bug's Life 1.20pm Mighty Joe 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm The Rugrats Movie 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm Shakespeare in Love 8.15pm Waking Ned 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Blast from the Past 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.35pm The Rugrats Movie 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm Shakespeare in Love 8.25pm Tea With Mussolini 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Streatham Hill American History X 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Beloved 7.40pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2pm

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today, times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's perennially popular whodunnit, St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) \oplus Leic Sq, Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 2.45pm, [1] 5pm, £10-£24, 50 mins.

OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's multi-award-winning production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's cowboy vs farmhand musical *Lyric* West Street, WC2 (0171-605 3405) \oplus Charing Cross/Bankside, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 2.30pm, ends 26 June, £10-£35, 180 mins.

ANADEUS David Suchet stars as Sabot in Peter Shaffer's drama, Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-494 5572) \oplus Waterloo, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 3pm, £10-£35, 180 mins.

ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage version of the Marx Brothers' classic from the Royal Exchange Theatre, Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-954 5045) \oplus Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] [7] 3pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

THE PRISONER OF SECOND AVENUE Richard Dreyfuss and Marsha Mason star in Neil Simon's comedy about a mid-life crisis, Royal Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5000) \oplus Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] [7] 3pm, £10-£32, 150 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lashay Myles' musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale, Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-954 0881) \oplus Old Vic, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 180 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical, Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-363 1753) \oplus Holborn/Tot Ch Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 3pm, £10-£35, 165 mins.

CAT Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York, Shaftesbury, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-200 1121) \oplus Holborn/Tot Ch Rd, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] [7] 3pm, £10-£35, 165 mins.

COAT Andrew Lloyd Webber's long-running musical version of TS Eliot's poems, New London Park, London WC2 (0171-405 0072) \oplus 404, 4079, Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3] [7] 3pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

LYTTELTON Betrayal Phyllis' defining work depicts a ménage à trois with stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas Hodge. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 7.9pm, £10-£35, 130 mins.

OLIVIER Candice Bergen's towering comic genius features a all star cast and Bernstein's heady score. In rep, tonight 7.15pm, ends 7.9pm, £10-£35, 130 mins.

COPENHAGEN New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom, Duchess Theatre, WC2 (0171-494 5075) \oplus Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 145 mins.

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the differences between the sexes, Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) \oplus Picc Cir, Mon-Thurs 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.45pm, £10-£35, 145 mins.

THE GIN GAME Frith Banbury directs Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin in this sensitive and funny drama which centres around a lengthy game of gin. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8886) \oplus Cottesloe, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 145 mins.

GOOD Charles Dance stars in CP Taylor's deceptively humorous drama as a German professor implicated with the Nazis, Donmar Warehouse, WC2 (0171-363 1732) \oplus Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 145 mins.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about a 1950s school romance at the notorious Rydell High. With Darren Day, Cambridge Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) \oplus Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

SHOCKHEADED PETER Brilliantly kooky, featuring the Tiger Lillies, in Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) \oplus Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW Slava Polounine returns to London with his mesmerising show that takes all ages back to the realms of childhood delight, Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 5085) \oplus Picc Cir, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's revamped and re-energised hi-tech roller-musical, Apollo Victoria, W1 (0171-494 5020) \oplus Oxford Circus, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE New writing from Mick MacHale in which two friends struggle to come to terms with their pasts and daunting futures, Royal Court, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, 9.15pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

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BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
9.00 Chris Moyles. **1.00** Scott Mills.
4.00 The Official UK Top 40 - the Year So Far. **7.00** Lamacoq Live. See *Pick of the Day*. **12.00** The Breezeblock. **2.00** Clive Warren. **4.00** - **6.30** Scott Mills.

RADIO 2

(88.9-92MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. **7.30** Wogan.
9.30 Ken Bruce. **12.00** Songs of the Century with Paul Gambaccini.
2.00 Ed Stewart. **5.00** Johnnie Walker. **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton.
8.00 Big Band Special. **6.30** Jools Holland. **9.30** Joe Brown: Let It Rock. **10.30** Richard Allison. **12.00** Mo Dutta. **3.00** - **4.00** Alex Lester.

RADIO 3

(90.2-94MHz FM)

6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

1.00 Sound Stories. See *Pick of the Day*.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Benjamin Britten. (R)

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from the Wigmore Hall, London, beginning a new season of chamber concerts. Thomas Allen (baritone), Malcolm Martineau (piano); Haydn: Sailor Song; Recollection: She never told her love; Piercing Eyes; Content (Original Canzonettas; Beethoven: An die Freude Gellele, Op 98; Wolf: Herzenspieler Lieder; Anakreons Grab (Goethe Lieder); Russische; Der Gartner; Abschied (Morke Lieder). **2.00** The BBC Orchestras.

4.00 Opera in Action.

5.00 In Tune.

7.30 Performance on 3. Chris de Souza introduces a concert given last month in Symphony Hall, Birmingham, as part of the 'Towards the Millennium' festival. The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and conductor Simon Rattle introduce and perform Nicholas Maw's 'Odyssey'.

9.30 Postscript. Five explorations by Ian Christie of how cinema has continued the literary and visual tradition of apocalyptic, reflecting the 20th Century's own history of catastrophe and its search for meaning in an increasingly secular world through a variety of forms, both traditional and innovative. 1: 'The Sense of an End-

PICK OF THE DAY

MARTIN JARVIS, who has now recorded some 100 of Richmal Crompton's stories, reads 'April Fool's Day' in Just William (9.45am R4FM), as part of a series marking the 80th anniversary of the character's first appearance. It contains a line that seems to sum up the eternal frustration of childhood: 'I don't think there's a single place left to play in England which hasn't got a

house next to it, nor ready to make a fuss the minute your ball goes into its garden.'

With their hit single 'Mulder and Scully' sounding more dated by the hour, Catatonia (right) headline Radio 1's weekend in London in Lamacoq Live (7pm R1).

Sound Stories (11am R3) this week focuses on cathedrals, beginning with Canterbury.

DOMINIC CAVENDISH



ing'. Cinema quickly lent itself to spectacles of decadence and destruction, but it has also reflected many of the apocalyptic themes that critics identify as underpinning modernist culture, ranging from technological anxiety and revolution to fears of environmental disaster and alien invasion.

11.00 Voices. In conversation with Richard Sisson, Ian Burnside introduces a selection of songs written in 1998. Melanie Marshall (soprano), Sarah Walker (mezzo), Daniel Norman (tenor), Kit Hesketh-Harvey (singer), Christopher Gould (piano), Berkshire Youth Choir, Richard Sisson (piano). Composers include Hugh Wood, Ian Venables, Julian Philips, Richard Sisson, Alastair Stout.

Quentin Thomas, Clement Ishmael, Benjamin Til, Jason Carr, Richard Taylor and Kit and the Widow.

11.00 Night Waves. An extra programme each week for the late-night arts review series. Richard Coles meets author Simon Schama, whose work is a combination of extensive historical research and an interest in literature and fine arts. After his popular book 'The Embarrassment of Riches', Schama has returned to Holland for the subject of his next book - Rembrandt.

11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 - **6.00** Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94MHz FM)

6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS: Start the Week.

9.45 Serial: Just William - the 80th Anniversary. See *Pick of the Day*.

10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: My Dad's Diary.

11.30 Full Moon.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Mastermind.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.15 Play: Five Children and It.

3.45 This Sceptred Isle. (R)

4.00 NEWS: The Food Programme.

4.30 Four Corners.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 Quite Unique.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.35 Front Row. Mark Lawson talks to Gore Vidal, who speaks about his life and career - from the ambitions of his political family to his mammoth historical novels covering the sweep of American history. As the first biography of Vidal is published, he takes stock of his five decades at the heart of American culture.

7.45 Diary of a Provincial Lady. By E M Delafield, dramatised by Jane Rogers. The everyday 1930s journal of how to run a house, a husband, a cook, a nanny, two children, bothersome neighbours, irritating relatives, and still manage to keep your sanity and your green fingers. With Imelda Staunton, Richard Hope and Susan Brown. Director Cive Briff (R17).

7.50 Plunger. By Johnny Mere. Thirty-nine-year-old office worker Mike Wainwright is making his first parachute jump. Unfortunately, it also looks like his last. With Johnny Mere, James Bryce and Monica Gibb.

8.10 Crossing Over.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Earthly Joys.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - **6.00** Farming Today.

8.30 Analysis. 'Beyond the Pale'. Joblessness, poverty, no network of friends and family - Julian Le Grand asks how we can define social exclusion in a meaningful way which is capable of remedy.

9.00 NEWS: Spring Watch. Nick Baker is back on the trail of the swallow, as he follows the advance of spring from south to north, guided by calls, questions and springtime sightings from the audience. This week he starts in East Anglia.

9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman and his guests set the cultural agenda for the week.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Archangel. Robert Harris' thriller is read by Alan Howard. A spectre is haunting the new Russia - Joseph Stalin. At midnight in a Moscow hotel room, Professor Fluke Kelsen is listening to a story that could make or break his reputation. If it is true, Stalin is about to return from the grave (1/10).

11.00 Plunger. By Johnny Mere. Thirty-nine-year-old office worker Mike Wainwright is making his first parachute jump. Unfortunately, it also looks like his last. With Johnny Mere, James Bryce and Monica Gibb.

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RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz LW)
9.45 - **10.00** Daily Service. **12.00** - **12.04** News; Shipping. **5.54** - **5.57** Shipping.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Brian Hayes.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Sport on 5.

6.06 Six-O-Six.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Commentary from St James' Park on the Premiership match between Newcastle and Tottenham.

9.40 Wembley Winners. Great FA Cup final. This week, Liverpool v Leeds United in 1965.

10.00 Late Night Live.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - **6.00** Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM

(1000-1019MHz FM)

6.00 Breakfast Hall of Fame. **9.00** Henry Kelly. **11.00** Jane Jones. **1.00** John Brunning. **3.00** Susannah Simon. **5.00** Jamie Crick. **7.00** Paul Gambaccini. **9.00** Hall of Fame Concert. Nicholas Trelean introduces the top three works in their entirety. **11.00** Alan Mann. **2.00** Concerto. **3.00** - **6.00** Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125, 197-260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

6.00 Phil Kennedy. **9.30** Russ Williams. **1.00** Nick Abbot. **4.00** Harriet Scott. **6.45** London Calling with Harriet Scott/AM Pete and Geoff. **7.30** Pete and Geoff. **10.00** Gary Davies. **1.00** Steve Power. **4.30** - **6.30** Phil Kennedy.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

(198kHz LW)

1.00 The World Today. **1.30** Health Matters. **1.55** My Century. **2.00** The World Today. **2.30** Westway. **2.45** Record News. **3.00** The World Today. **3.30** World Business Report. **3.45** Insight. **4.00** The World Today. **4.20** Sports Roundup. **4.30** - **7.00** The World Today (430-700).

TALK RADIO

6.00 Charlie Catchpole and Nick Ferrari. **9.00** Scott Chisholm and Sally James. **12.00** Let's Tak Soap with Tina Baker. **1.00** The SportZone.

7.00 Under the Posts. **8.00** James Whale. **1.00** - **6.00** Gordon Astley.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

ONE OF the most enjoyable ways of studying chess is solving - or even just browsing - tactical puzzles. So I was delighted recently to receive a new and innovative collection.

"Mitrofanov's Deflection" is the third in a projected series of five entitled *The Tactician's Handbook*, by the correspondence IM Victor Charusin of Nizhny Novgorod, translated by the grandmaster Anatoly Lein (Picard and Sons, US, \$13.50). It is hard to find in a general bookshop, but the series is available from both the London Chess Centre (0171-382-2441) and the BCM Chess Shop (0171-603-2877).

In his third volume Charusin presents a delightful collection of deflections, starting from the magnificent study below, a firm favourite which I published here six months ago but certainly bears repeating.

The whole effect depends on the extraordinary deflection 7.Qg5!!

white at the end it would be stalemate but for the knight on e1.

The more than 200 examples vary from this territory of extreme wish-fulfilment via many startling examples in real games to a quantity of somewhat more prosaic but considerably more practical studies that are generally dependent on the struggle to promote passed pawns.

There are also sections on specific matters such as "Mitrofanov's Deflection" itself, which Charusin defines as being that of a queen "for nothing".

And a slightly off-topic but nevertheless delightful excursion into "The Single Bishop Mate", including this extraordinary and presumably perfectly genuine finish:

White to play and win



K. Jung vs J. Sabados

Budapest 1952

